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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Text' of Israeli-Palestinian Security Agreement

NC3103142694 Paris AFP in English 1338 GMT
31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 31 (AFP)—The following is the text of the Israeli-PLO agreement signed in Cairo Thursday [31 March].

Joint communique, Cairo, March 31, 1994

On March 31, 1994, the Israeli and Palestinian delegations reached an agreement on security arrangements for Hebron and on the immediate resumption of the Gaza and Jericho area negotiations.

The two sides have agreed on a set of measures which include, inter alia, a temporary international presence in Hebron to assist in promoting stability and restoring normal life in the city and on modalities for resuming negotiations on Gaza and Jericho. The two sides have also agreed on a gradual movement of Palestinian policemen into Gaza and the Jericho area, starting next week.

The two delegations have also set out an agreed agenda in order to accelerate their negotiations and the implementation with the objective of making up for lost time. Israel agreed to shorten the withdrawal schedule and accelerate the withdrawal, being guided by the target dates set in the DOP (Declaration of Principles).

The two sides have expressed their strong resolve to pursue their negotiations in order to reach agreement as soon as possible.

The Israeli and Palestinian delegations express their gratitude to President Mubarak, his government and the Egyptian people for the assistance and hospitality they bestowed.

Finally, the Israeli and Palestinian delegations express their hope that the measures taken will ensure success in their efforts to reach a real peace and co-existence.

Agreement:

In the aftermath of the horrendous massacre in Hebron, and in response to the heightened needs of the Palestinians for security throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and particularly in Hebron and in accordance with (UN) Security Council Resolution 904, delegations of Israel and the PLO met and agreed to take the measures set out in this Agreement.

As soon as this Agreement is signed, its implementation will begin and the Gaza-Jericho negotiations will be resumed, as set out below.

A. Temporary International Presence in the City of Hebron.

1. In response to the unique situation created in Hebron in the aftermath of the massacre, a temporary international presence will be established in the city of Hebron ("TIPH"). As detailed in paragraph A.3 below, the TIPH will assist in promoting stability and in monitoring and reporting the efforts to restore normal life in the city of Hebron, thus creating a feeling of security among Palestinians in the city of Hebron.

2. The two sides shall request the donor countries to provide 160 persons, citizens of Norway, Denmark and Italy, as TIPH personnel, consisting of field observers, office staff and support personnel, as agreed between the two sides. Changes in the composition of the TIPH may be made from among the donor countries with the consent of both sides. Consistent with its stated tasks, the TIPH personnel shall have no military or police functions.

3. The tasks of TIPH personnel will be:

- a. to provide by their presence a feeling of security to the Palestinians of Hebron,
- b. to help promote stability and an appropriate environment conducive to the enhancement of the well-being of the Palestinians of Hebron and their economic development,
- c. to monitor the efforts to restore the safety of Palestinians and events affecting it and the return to normal life in the city of Hebron, and
- d. to provide reports as set out in paragraph A.5 below.

4. In order to facilitate the carrying out of TIPH tasks, a building will be chosen in the city of Hebron as a seat for the TIPH.

5. The TIPH will report to the following:

a. on specific events—to a Joint Hebron Committee ("JHC"), comprised of two representatives from each side. The senior Palestinian representative will be the Mayor of Hebron and the senior Israeli representative will be the head of the Civil Administration in the District of Hebron. A representative of the TIPH will be invited on a bi-weekly basis to participate in the JHC meeting in order to report on the TIPH activities.

b. periodically—to the Joint Israeli-Palestinian Liaison Committee established pursuant to the DOP.

In addition, the TIPH will provide periodic reports to the Chair of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee of the Donors.

6. The members of the TIPH shall wear distinctive uniforms with a special emblem, as agreed by the two sides, and their vehicles shall be marked with the same emblem. TIPH members may carry pistols for self-defence purposes.

7. The TIPH will enjoy freedom of movement for the performance of its tasks within the city of Hebron. Such freedom of movement shall not be restricted, except for

reasons of imperative military necessity, and then only as an exceptional and temporary measure.

8. The TIPH will establish the modalities of its presence and activity with the agreement of the two sides, with due regard being given to its aforementioned tasks.

9. The expenses of the TIPH will be borne by the donor countries.

10. The TIPH may commence its operation immediately after the signing of this Agreement and continue to function for a period of three months. With the consent of the two sides, the TIPH may extend the period or change the scope of its operation, as agreed.

B. The Gaza-Jericho Negotiations.

1. The Gaza-Jericho negotiations shall be resumed in Cairo on Thursday, March 31, 1994. These negotiations shall be accelerated with the objective of making up for lost time.

2. Israel agrees to shorten the withdrawal schedule and accelerate the withdrawal, being guided by the target dates set in the DOP.

3. Immediately after the conclusion of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, early empowerment negotiations will commence, and the two sides will explore possible expansion of the scope of these negotiations beyond the five spheres.

4. The two sides will intensify the negotiations on the interim arrangements consistent with the DOP and guided by its target date.

5. The two sides reiterate their commitment to commence permanent status negotiations as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period, as provided for in Article V of the DOP.

6. Gradual movement into Gaza and Jericho of Palestinian policemen will start one week after the resumption of the Gaza-Jericho negotiations, in order to commence preparations for assuming powers and responsibilities, as agreed by the two sides.

Comparison With MENA Version

NC3103154794

[Editorial Report] Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1355 GMT on 31 March carries the "text" of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on security measures to be taken in the West Bank town of Hebron. The MENA version has been compared with the above AFP version and found to be identical except for the following variations:

The MENA version omits paragraphs 2 through 8.

Paragraph 13, second sentence reads: ...in promoting stability in the city, monitoring the situation there, and exerting efforts to restore... (changing "reporting" to "exerting" and supplying variant wording).

Paragraph 18, only sentence reads: ...of Palestinians and prevent any events affecting it... (adding words "prevent any.")

Measures To Speed Up Gaza-Jericho Talks Reported

NC3103170694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1554 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators, headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th and General Amnon Shahaq, have agreed on the immediate repatriation of 35 Palestinian deportees who belong to the Fatah Movement. In fact, agreement has been reached on the names of those who will return as part of confidence-building measures between the two sides.

Sources close to the negotiations noted that final agreement was also reached on reopening all PLO, Fatah, and other popular organizations' offices in the occupied territories, which were closed recently after the intifadah activities were stepped up. These offices were officially allowed to reopen once the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles was signed on 13 September 1993.

The same sources clarified that measures to reopen these offices are being taken by the Israeli military ruler for all the occupied areas.

Moreover, sources close to the negotiations' delegations have affirmed that negotiations on autonomy in Gaza and Jericho will resume on Sunday in Cairo.

The sources said that all necessary measures will be taken to speed up these negotiations so that they will end in about one week, or ten days at the latest. These sources clarified that there are four different committees: The Economic Committee, which was meeting in Paris under the chairmanship of Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', head of the PLO Economic Department, will meet in Cairo with the rest of the committees. The other three committees are the Security Affairs Committee chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th and General Amnon Shahaq; the Civil Affairs Committee chaired by lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi and General Gadi Zohar, deputy director of civil administration in the West Bank; and the Autonomy Privileges Committee, which will set the final arrangements for the transfer of Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho.

The same sources clarified that concerted efforts are being exerted to end the negotiations within the coming week so that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin can sign the final agreement no later than 12 April 1994.

It is worth mentioning that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations actually started discussing the agenda of the remaining issues on implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement late last night.

First Palestinian Police To Enter Gaza 5 Apr
*NC0104053994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT
31 Mar 94*

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Responsible Palestinian sources have told MENA that the first group of Palestinian police will arrive in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday [5 April] in accordance with the agreement reached today during negotiations between the Palestinian and the Israeli delegations in Cairo.

The same sources said that this group will be followed by a larger group on Thursday. The sources pointed out that during the talks held today a detailed agreement was reached on the agenda for the Gaza-Jericho negotiations, which will resume in Cairo on Sunday. [Word indistinct] the time schedule for the entry of the Palestinian police force to Gaza and Jericho.

In another development, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and head of the Palestinian negotiating team, stated that the implementation of all measures in the Declaration of Principles will be acted on quickly.

MENA has learned that this evening Dr. Sha'th went to the Norwegian Embassy in Cairo and submitted an official request that international observers be sent to Hebron City to begin carrying out their duties there as soon as possible.

Sha'th on Security Agreement, Police Deployment
*JN0104121194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic
1050 GMT 1 Apr 94*

[Telephone interview with chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'th, in Cairo, by Sa'id Mu'addi, in the studio, on 1 April; from the "With The Middy Events" program —recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Now that the agreement on the security arrangements in Hebron has been signed in Cairo, when will this agreement be implemented?

[Sha'th] As soon as possible. Fifteen minutes after the signing I was at the Norwegian Embassy [in Cairo] with the official request signed by us and the Israeli Government. I submitted the request to Mr. Larsen, adviser to the Norwegian foreign minister and head of the coordination office of the donating states, to prepare for the arrival of 160 observers from Norway, Denmark, and Italy as soon as possible. I believe Mr. Larsen will go to Hebron in the next few days. Also, the chief of the Norwegian international observers will arrive in Cairo on Sunday [3 April].

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Does this agreement mirror the provisions of Security Council Resolution 904?

[Sha'th] At least one of the two major paragraphs of the resolution is on international protection and the temporary international presence in Hebron. We reached this in accordance with Resolution 904. Very soon, 160 observers will be in Hebron to give its people a feeling of security. They will be present everywhere. They will have an open-door headquarters for the citizens of Hebron. I believe this will create a feeling of security. Israel took some measures and will take other measures to provide security and protection and to prevent settlers' violence in the city of Hebron. I believe we are seeking the implementation of the Security Council resolution, knowing that this resolution [as heard] was based on Security Council Resolution 904.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, the Palestinian side conceded its initial demand to send Palestinian police to Hebron. Why?

[Sha'th] The Security Council resolution, in fact, does not call for dispatching Palestinian police to Hebron. There was an idea to send Palestinian police to Hebron, and Israel agreed to this idea. However, we could not reach an agreement on the number, arms, and conditions, in accordance with which the entry of this Palestinian police force would help achieve the security of the Palestinians in Hebron. If we cannot achieve this, their presence will add nothing to this protection, but could create problems, particularly in the absence of a real participation in the political authority that will supervise the security power. Therefore, following lengthy discussion and despite Israel's agreement to 130 Palestinian police, we decided to double the international observers in this stage and to postpone the entry of Palestinian police until after [the implementation] of the Gaza-Jericho accord when the Palestinian police are deployed throughout all West Bank cities and when the Israeli forces are redeployed outside the Palestinians cities, villages, and camps in the West Bank.

[Mu'addi] Has an agreement been reached in Cairo on the return of longtime deportees?

[Sha'th] Yes. A group of deportees will return very soon. And the Palestinian police will enter Gaza and Jericho very soon. I believe that this police will begin to enter during the next week to receive military headquarters and garrisons and to take over police stations in Khan Yunus, Gaza, and Jericho...

[Mu'addi, interrupting] When will economic talks be resumed and what are the next steps in the coming week?

[Sha'th] I believe the talks will take place next week, together with the return of the Gaza-Jericho talks in all their security and civilian committees. This is in addition to the release of prisoners. Furthermore, the legal committee and the standing drafting committee will be formed. All these committees will work intensively during the coming two weeks in an attempt to reach a comprehensive agreement on issues related to Gaza-Jericho as soon as possible. This is what we did during

the past two weeks, particularly during the past three weeks as we worked from 9 o'clock until 2 or 3 after midnight.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you, brother.

Al-Husayni Reacts to Hebron Security Agreement

*NC3103191594 London MBC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 31 Mar 94*

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, chief adviser to the Palestinian negotiating team, by Fadi Isma'il on 31 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Husayni] First of all, I believe that if the measures that are taken do not include the evacuation of the settlers from Hebron they will not lead to a solution to this problem and the fuse will continue burning with the possibility of a real eruption. Hence, I believe that none of these measures will lead to a solution as long as the settlers stay in the heart of Hebron.

[Isma'il] There were some reports today that the Palestinian police will start to arrive in Gaza and Jericho early next week, before the anticipated Israeli withdrawal. Does this mean that agreement on the details of self-government is only a matter of time?

[Al-Husayni] If by the arrival of the Palestinian police you mean the arrival of some administrators to prepare for the arrival of the Palestinian police and if this is done before the complete Israeli withdrawal, then this might be reasonable. But if Palestinian policemen enter areas that are still under Israeli control, I believe it will not have positive results. What is needed is to have the Palestinian police enter the areas from which the Israeli forces withdraw and exercise full authority there. Otherwise, there will be new eruptions.

'Urayqat Says Settlers 'Root' of Hebron Problem

*JN3103184694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic
1550 GMT 31 Mar 94*

[Telephone interview with Palestinian negotiator Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat by Sa'id Mu'addi on 31 March, place not given; from the "With the Events" program;—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, at last an agreement on security arrangements in Hebron was signed in Cairo today. Do you believe that these arrangements ensure the security of the Palestinians in Hebron?

[Urayqat] In fact, there are causes for the problem in Hebron. The root of the problem is the existence of settlers in the heart of the city of Hebron. I fear that without the evacuation of the settlement hotbeds from the heart of Hebron, the problem will remain and could explode despite any measures.

[Mu'addi] Will the arrival of international observers from Norway, Belgium, and Italy ease friction between the settlers and Arab residents in Hebron?

[Urayqat] The question is not one of easing anyone's worries. The question is one of finding a fundamental solution to this issue. This would be achieved by tackling its roots. First, the root of the problem is the presence of settlers. Settlers must be evacuated from Hebron. Second, there are questions that must be addressed, such as what authority these international forces will come under, what their jurisdiction will be, what their responsibilities will be, until when will they submit their reports, and how will they implement their measures and orders. In fact, we do not know the details of all these matters. However, the problem will remain as long as the settlement hotbeds exist in Hebron or anywhere else.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Urayqat, will signing the agreement on arrangements in Hebron help complete the measures regarding the Gaza-Jericho plan?

[Urayqat] We have always emphasized that the negotiations are not an end in themselves. After the Hebron massacre, unless the settlement subject is placed at the top of the agenda, it is unreasonable to expect any negotiations to lead to the hoped-for just, comprehensive, durable peace, a peace based on Resolution 242. I fear that unless the main problem, represented by settlement activity, is resolved, the arrangements that have been agreed upon may lead to further future complications.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Urayqat, concerning the bilateral negotiations, has the Palestinian side received an invitation to go to Washington next month?

[Urayqat] No. The Palestinian side has not received any invitations. The negotiations which took place in Tunis and Cairo dealt with providing protection for the Palestinian people in accordance with Resolution 904. However, it seems that the basic issue and the root of the problem, which is the settlement existence, has not been tackled. This will have negative consequences in the future.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, thank you very much.

[Urayqat] Thank you.

Correspondents View Hebron Security Agreement

*TA3103132094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 31 Mar 94*

[Studio talk between anchorman 'Adi Talmor in Tel Aviv and correspondent Sefi Hendler in Cairo—live]

[Text] [Talmor] The PLO and Israel signed an agreement on security arrangements for the Arab residents of Hebron a short while ago. This paves the way for the resumption of negotiations on Gaza-Jericho First. Our correspondent in Cairo Sefi Hendler attended the brief signing ceremony. Here is his report:

[Hendler] Good afternoon. After having become accustomed to the DOP—the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestinians—we will now have to learn a new acronym, TIPH: Temporary International Presence in Hebron [acronym and preceding five words in English]. This is the name of the international force that will be composed of 160 soldiers from Norway, Denmark, and Italy. The agreement stipulates that these soldiers, who will have the status of civilian observers, will be permitted to carry personal handguns for self-defense purposes only. This force will deploy in Hebron for three months. If at the conclusion of this period, the Palestinians and Israelis are jointly interested in extending the observers' mandate, then this will be possible. The goals of the TIPH—the international force to be deployed in Hebron—are specified in the agreement, copies of which were handed out to correspondents a short time ago in Cairo. The goals are as follows: One, to give the Palestinians a sense of security. Two, to maintain stability in Hebron in order to guarantee the safety and wellbeing of local residents. Three, to supervise the efforts to restore the Palestinians' sense of security and to allow life to return to normal in Hebron. Four, to report on developments in Hebron to several bodies: first and foremost to a special Hebron committee which will be comprised of two representatives from each side, including the mayor of Hebron and the head of the Civil Administration in Hebron. The Hebron committee will report to a subcommittee which will be established within the framework of negotiations on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. The United States and Russia, the cosponsors of the peace process, will also establish a committee that will be briefed by the multinational force deployed in Hebron.

The second part of today's agreement deals with the implementation of Gaza-Jericho First. It stipulates that the discussions on the implementation of Gaza-Jericho First will resume today. We understood that this constitutes a temporary, and not very significant piece of news which was only noted in order to prove that the negotiations on the implementation of Gaza-Jericho First would start today while the really practical discussions would begin next week, apparently in Cairo. The agreement also stipulates that the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho will be accelerated and posits the early stationing of Palestinian policemen in the Gaza Strip by next week in order to give the Palestinians there a greater feeling of security and to further speed up the Israeli withdrawal. These are the details. The negotiations on Gaza-Jericho First will resume later today following the signing of the agreement on the security package in Hebron known as TIPH. This is the name of the international presence that will number 160 personnel from Italy, Norway, and Denmark.

[Talmor] When will the negotiations on Gaza-Jericho First resume in a wider framework?

[Hendler] This is not mentioned in the agreement but we understand that this will take place next week, probably on Sunday or Monday [3 or 4 April] in Cairo.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief, Iraqi Minister Discuss Embargo

NC3103133894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT
31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid received Iraqi Health Minister Umid Midhat Mubarak today. The Iraqi minister explained the deteriorating medical conditions in Iraq due to the international embargo imposed on that country since the Gulf war.

Mubarak asked the Arab League to help in releasing Iraq's frozen funds abroad so that medicine, food, and medical supplies can be bought for the Iraqi people.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the Arab League's bodies, for humanitarian reasons, are concerned about lifting the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Western Envoys Briefed on Arab Support for Libya

NC3103163094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT
31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with French Ambassador to Cairo Patrick LeClercq, British Ambassador Christopher Long, and U.S. Charge d'Affaires David Hill.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid briefed the three envoys on the Arab League Council resolution from its recent meeting to support the Libyan stand in the Western-Libyan Lockerbie crisis and the Council's adoption of a proposal to try the two suspected Libyan nationals before the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said after the meeting that Libya took a flexible stand when it agreed to the trial of its suspected citizens before a neutral body. He said that the proposal adopted by the Arab League Council at its recent meeting calls for the travel of a Scottish court and judges to The Hague because the U.S. plane crashed over the Scottish town of Lockerbie and the law to apply in such a case is that of the country where the incident happened.

The Arab League chief said that Scottish law is more flexible than English law, which only stipulates two outcomes of a trial: either guilty or not guilty.

He added that he proposed at the meeting to have the Security Council issue a resolution transferring the Scottish court to The Hague in order to begin the trial of the Libyans suspected of involvement in the Lockerbie case.

He stressed that Libya is responsive and eager not to escalate the Libyan-Western crisis since such an escalation will have grave consequences for Libya, the neighboring countries, the Mediterranean Sea countries, and

even the European countries, which will not be happy with the imposition of an embargo on the export of Libyan oil.

'Abd-al-Majid, Libya's al-Bishari Discuss Lockerbie

NC3103171994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League. 'Abd-al-Majid briefed al-Bishari on the outcome of his meeting today with the British and French ambassadors and the U.S. charge d'affairs in Cairo.

After the meeting, al-Bishari said 'Abd-al-Majid has a clear concept of Libya's crisis with the West. This concept is based on two points—safeguarding Libya's sovereignty and upholding international law.

Al-Bishari said the Arab League supports the stand of Libya, which does not seek to escalate the crisis so that its effects will not adversely affect the whole region.

Al-Bishari described the international blockade of his country as tantamount to "the illegal detention of a people inside a small country with limited capabilities and resources." He noted that it is in Libya's interest to solve the problem and not to enter into a showdown with three major states.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO: Israel Takes 'First Step' With Hebron Accord

NC3103184494 Paris AFP in English 1758 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, March 31 (AFP)—Israel has taken the first step toward protecting Palestinians by signing an accord with the PLO Thursday [31 March] to deploy 160 foreign observers in the West Bank town of Hebron, a PLO spokesman said.

The accord signed in Cairo was "a first step in applying (UN) Security Council Resolution 904," the spokesman said.

The resolution, adopted on March 18, condemned the massacre of 30 Palestinians by a Jewish settler at a Hebron mosque on February 25 and called for international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The PLO spokesman, quoted by the official Wafa news agency, welcomed the participation of "friendly countries in the international force" which is to deploy in the West Bank town.

But he urged additional measures "to guarantee effective international protection for the Palestinian people, its land and its holy sites."

He called on Israel to fulfill all the conditions necessary to ensure the observers could complete their neutral mission and said the PLO was "ready to help them in the task."

Other problems still to be resolved included settlers carrying arms and "the presence of extremist settlers and their terrorist activities," he said.

The PLO would continue its efforts to protect all Palestinians and "wipe out centres of terrorism," as well as pushing ahead with deployment of a Palestinian security force in the Gaza Strip and Jericho as set out in the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington in September.

Talks on launching Palestinian self-rule resumed Thursday after the security deal was signed in Cairo.

Spokesman Views Agreement on Hebron Security

LD3103185094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Brothers, we have just received the following news item: A PLO official spokesman has made the following statement:

The agreement reached in Cairo on the international presence in Hebron represent a starting point on the path of the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 904, and other effective measures that provide security for our Palestinian people in Hebron and in other occupied Palestinian regions. They also deal with the issue of the armed and extremists settlers in Hebron and other parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip; the need to put an end to their terrorist activity, their carrying of weapons and other problems, as was stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution 904. These measures represent fundamental elements to guarantee the security of the Palestinian people and provide an effective international protection in our Palestinian land for our people, its territories and sanctities.

While the PLO welcomes the participation of a number of friendly states in the international forces, and their friendly units, it would like to stress that our people will contribute toward the facilitation of their mission. The PLO calls on the government of Israel to provide all the necessary conditions that will help these forces carry out their duties according to the appropriate agreement; and help implement the Declaration of Principles agreement and the UN Security Council Resolution, which defines the role of these international forces.

The PLO will continue its efforts to guarantee the implementation of all the provisions regarding security and protection for our people, and the removal of all terrorist and settlement hotbeds, and the implementation of the Declaration of Principle Agreement to secure

the entrance of the the Palestinian forces to the Palestinian land as soon as possible, and to establish and set up the first Palestinian authority in this Palestinian land, raise the Palestinian flag, and consecrate the Palestinian presence.

Russia Said Ready To Help Hebron Protection Force

JN3103210194 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has received information that Russia is ready to take part in an international force to protect Palestinian citizens in Hebron. The Palestinian News Agency says that this decision by the Russian leadership has been emphasized in a letter conveyed by the Russian ambassador in Tunis to brother President Abu-'Ammar.

Meanwhile, President Abu-'Ammar has asked France to help provide an international protection for the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories.

Opposition Groups Criticize Hebron Agreement

PFLP-GC: Prelude to 'Civil War'

JN3103204294 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] An official spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

More than 40 days have passed since the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Press statements and angry announcements have been made and threats issued to stop the negotiations unless the Zionist enemy submits to the demands of the so-called Palestinian negotiating delegation and its leadership. There was also a period of stalling, procrastination, and threats to use the veto. Yet all this, including the PLO leadership in Tunis and Resolution No. 904, only affirmed one unchanging fact; namely, that Palestinian blood was exploited in the auctions and markets of [the Middle East] settlement both in Washington and the Camp David capital to orchestrate the political process. 'Arafat never fails to provide evidence of his direct and indirect involvement in underrating the blood of our Palestinian people, coordinating his positions with those who want from the settlement the liquidation of our cause and to conspire against our people and their objectives.

'Arafat's most recent Cairo accord—calling for deploying a multinational force—confirms the anticipated results of the maneuvers of this treasonous leadership that had issued deceptive statements on the status of the Hebron settlers, raised the prospect of suspending the talks unless they were evicted, and then demanded

that the future of Jerusalem and the settlements be put on the agenda before the expiration of the first phase of self-rule.

However, the latest Cairo accord is evidence of how lightly our people are being taken, along with their memory and principles. We in the PFLP-GC view this accord as a transparent attempt to betray the blood of the Hebron massacre martyrs and our people's cause. We ask whether a token force made up of only dozens of blue helmets and operating under a limited timeframe and the control of the enemy and the Hebron town council can provide our people with real protection in the face of the terror of the settlers and the enemy military.

This accord reinforces the settlements and runs counter to the fiery statements made by 'Arafat in the aftermath of the massacre. The token international force is just another false witness.

The PFLP-GC's official spokesman adds: In the latest Cairo accord, 'Arafat brushed aside the Arab refusal to return to the negotiating table while the Zionist terror persists. In the final analysis, the return to the negotiations accommodates a U.S.-Zionist decision and shows 'Arafat cannot wait to complete the self-rule conspiracy. Talk about deploying a 'Arafatist police force by mid-April within the framework of self-rule arrangements is like throwing sand in ones eyes and a prelude to civil war being programmed by the parties to the conspiracy and executed by 'Arafat and his lieutenants.

The spokesman concludes: We have absolute faith in our people's awareness and capacity to thwart what is being hatched against them. Our people's will and their mujahidin are sure to thwart all the maneuvers, whose authors will reap only disgrace. Revolution until the liberation of land and man.

DFLP, Islamic Jihad React

JN0104142294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] The Palestinian opposition has condemned the PLO-Israeli agreement on Hebron security and asked the Palestinian police force, which will be deployed in the autonomous region, not to thwart attacks aimed at the Israeli occupation.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has denounced what it called the observers deal in Hebron and regarding it as an ineffectual deal confined to the presence of a limited number of European observers with no security powers and without any deterrent measures against the settlers and settlements. It also considered this a new concession in the 'Arafat leadership's long line of concessions under the pressure and blackmail of the United States and Israel.

Those who speak on behalf of the ten Palestinian factions opposed to the Oslo agreement say that the measures which have been agreed on in Hebron will not prevent new massacres of Palestinians. Fathi al-Shaqaqi,

secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Organization, says that yesterday's agreement in Cairo does not ensure for the Palestinians a minimum level of security and the international presence is useless because the international observers will not play the role of policemen. He said the Islamic Jihad will continue against the Zionists in all parts of occupied Palestine and asked the Palestinian police personnel not to hinder his organization's operations against the Israeli enemy, as he put it.

PFLP, Other Figures Reject Accord

JN3103165894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Dawud Talhami, the spokesman of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has described the agreement on Hebron security as a submission to Israel's stands and terms. The agreement did not tackle the presence of settlers in Hebron, maintained the Qiryat Arba' settlement, and has not put an end to settler terrorism, he added. The new agreement watered down the international protection and confined it to 160 observers, Talhami said.

The signing of the agreement on the international presence in Hebron will allow the resumption of the autonomy negotiations next Monday [4 April], according to PLO ambassador to Jordan, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, who announced that the first units of the Palestinian force will begin deployment in Gaza and Jericho the next day and will complete deployment on 13 April. As for the Israeli forces, they will redeploy in these areas. Our correspondent Basim Abu-Sumayyah informs us of the general conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories:

[Begin recording] Israeli military officials have said the Israeli Army is prepared to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho and redeploy within 72 hours of receiving orders. [passage omitted] Former Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, who is expected to return to his post shortly, has welcomed the deployment of the international forces in the town, regarding it as a good step if the members of this force are capable of providing genuine protection for the Palestinians. He emphasized the need to disarm and evacuate the settlers to provide security and stability for the Palestinians.

On the other hand, supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] have rejected the agreement, which fails to provide genuine protection for the Palestinian people. 'Abd-al-'Alim Da'nah said that what is required is an opportunity for a just peace and not reaching a truce between the victim and the perpetrator.

Islamic law judge al-Shaykh Tayseer al-Tamimi expressed fear that the deployment of the international force will help consecrate the partition of the town which was imposed by the Israeli forces. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further Reaction to Agreement

NC3103170294 Paris AFP in English 1551 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Hebron, Occupied West Bank, March 31 (AFP)—Palestinian leaders here welcomed the imminent arrival of international observers under Thursday's [31 March] Israel-PLO security accord, but urged more steps to protect Palestinians.

Former Palestinian mayor Mustafa al-Natshah told AFP: "The population in Hebron will only be safe when the 30 families of Jewish settlers situated in the heart of Hebron are evacuated."

Some 400 settlers live scattered through the town of 120,000 people.

Al-Natshah added he was "satisfied" that 160 lightly-armed observers from Norway, Denmark and Italy were to be sent to the town under a deal signed Thursday in Cairo.

It is the first time that Israel has agreed to the deployment of an international force in territories under its control.

The PLO demanded protection for Palestinians living in Hebron after a Jewish settler killed 30 Arab worshippers in a mosque here as a condition for returning to talks on launching self-rule.

But leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said in Damascus the agreement would not ensure the safety of Palestinians in Hebron.

The two dissident factions are opposed to the Middle East peace process.

PFLP deputy leader Abu-'Ali Mustafa said Palestinian security would be "impossible without the dismantlement of the settlements."

DFLP spokesman Dawud Talhami said settlers would still "continue to carry out massacres."

"The 160 international observers will not be able to react seriously in face of the deployment of thousands of Israeli soldiers," he added.

The president of Hebron university's graduate association Ahmad Tamimi said the agreement was "a step forward", but added Palestinians would never "know stability and security until the settlers have left."

The deal reached between Israeli and PLO negotiators called for the observers to be deployed immediately in Hebron. It paved the way for an immediate resumption of autonomy talks on Thursday, suspended for almost five weeks since the February 25 massacre.

A PLO spokesman in Tunis said the accord was "a first step in applying (UN) Security Council Resolution 904."

The resolution adopted on March 18 condemned the massacre and called for international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

But the spokesman urged extra measures "to guarantee an effective international protection for the Palestinian people, its land and its holy sites."

APF Receives Libyan Promises To Support Intifadah

JN3103173794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Mar 94 p 26

[Text] QUDS PRESS—A senior official of the Palestinian organization Hamas, which opposes peace negotiations with Israel, has said that Libya has promised the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] financial and political aid for the liberation of Palestine.

Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, the biggest faction within the APF, said that a delegation of all the leaders from the opposition factions recently returned from an official visit to the Libyan capital Tripoli. He added that this is the first visit of its kind.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, Ghawshah said that the leaders of the alliance visited Libya at the invitation of Libyan President Mu'ammar Qadhafi. He noted that the delegation included George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]; Colonel Muhammad Musa, alias Abu-Musa, secretary of the central committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah-The Uprising; Dr. Fathi al-Shaqqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement; Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the PFLP-General Command; 'Arabi 'Awwad, secretary general of the Revolutionary Communist Party; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]; 'Isam al-Qadi [secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguard Organization-Al-Sa'iqah]; Abu-Nidal al-Ashqar [member of the Palestine Liberation Front Political Bureau]; Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid [secretary general of the splinter group Palestinian Popular Struggle Front]; in addition to Ghawshah himself and Khalid Mash'al from Hamas.

The spokesman said that the delegation held a two-hour meeting with leader Qadhafi in Surt. The delegation demanded that al-Qadhafi support the intifadah and the mujahidin and work on stopping attempts of normalization with the Zionist enemy, as he said he would. The Palestinian official said that last Saturday, the delegation met with Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus, the Libyan Chief of Staff and member of the ruling Revolution Command Council.

Ghawshah described the visit as useful and fruitful. He said: It is a gain in itself to exchange views and agree on common denominators dealing with Arab and official interests. He noted that Libya promised to offer more

moral and financial support for the liberation of Palestine. He added that he expects the APF leadership to visit Iran on a date that has not yet been fixed.

'Arafat Receives Phone Call From Christopher

LD3103211094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] President 'Arafat yesterday evening received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. 'Arafat asked Mr. Christopher for the U.S. Administration's help in urging Israel to agree on expanding the extent and the size of international presence in Hebron and the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 904 regarding international protection for our people inside the occupied Palestinian territories.

'Arafat Appoints Hebron Mayor; Hamas Issues Threat

TA0104044694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] PLO leader 'Arafat has appointed Mustafa al-Natshah as mayor of Hebron effective 4 April. Al-Natshah was voted into office as mayor of Hebron in 1983, but was prevented by Israeli authorities from carrying out his duties because of allegations that he encouraged attacks against settlers. Two years ago, al-Natshah served as a negotiator at the Washington peace talks with Israel.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] says it opposes the appointment, and if al-Natshah accepts, he will be assassinated.

'Arafat Says Israelis 'Playing for Time'

BR3103135794 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 8 Apr 94 pp 86-90

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Wlodek Goldkorn and Dina Nascetti in Tunis; date not given: "We Will Live With the Jews. I Swear It"—first paragraph is L'ESPRESSO introduction]

[Text] "I so much wish that Yitzhaq Rabin had the courage of Charles De Gaulle: Like Rabin, he was a general, he was the leader of a state, but he had the courage to withdraw France's troops from Algeria." This was said by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The modest house that is his headquarters in Tunis is receiving a constant stream of visits by delegations at present. Deputy Chief of Staff of the Israeli Army Amnon Shahaq; Clinton's Middle East envoy, Dennis Ross; his Russian counterpart, Viktor Posuvalik; and the Norwegian mediators—all of them discussing the resumption of negotiations between the PLO and Israel, suspended following the massacre in the Hebron mosque five weeks ago. The Palestinian leader found time to grant the following exclusive interview to L'ESPRESSO:

[L'ESPRESSO] Mr. Chairman, the UN Security Council issued a very sharp criticism of Israel for what happened at Hebron. Does that resolution constitute a basis for a resumption of negotiations?

[Arafat] It was an important step. Not only because of the criticism itself but, rather, because the resolution indicates specific measures to be adopted with respect to the armed Israeli settlers and recommends the presence of international observers in the occupied territories. Last, I would like to stress that the Security Council resolution talks about the responsibility of the sponsors of the Madrid conference for implementing the aforementioned measures.

[L'ESPRESSO] One of the sponsors of the Madrid conference, together with the United States, is Russia. Are you pleased that Russian diplomacy has returned to the Middle East scene?

[Arafat] Look, we went to the Madrid peace conference in October 1991 precisely because it was called by two major powers—the Soviet Union and the United States. Subsequently, Russia, heir to the USSR, was a joint-signatory of the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington 13 September 1993 by Israel and the PLO.

[L'ESPRESSO] But because of its domestic problems, Russia has been out of international politics for months and months...

[Arafat] That is not true. Russia has played a crucial role in Bosnia.

[L'ESPRESSO] But not in the Middle East.

[Arafat] That is not true either. The Russians have played a most important role in the Middle East from the start of the peace process. And they have never abandoned it.

[L'ESPRESSO] The U.S. Government does not look favorably on Russia's return to the Middle Eastern scene.

[Arafat] I see no evidence of that.

[L'ESPRESSO] Do you see any evidence of the Vatican's having mobilized its diplomacy since the events at Hebron and the breaking off of the negotiations?

[Arafat] Of course, I confirm it. In any case, I am in constant contact with the Vatican—so much so that we have established a standing joint committee between the PLO and the Vatican. Furthermore, while Israeli Prime Minister Rabin was in Rome to meet with the pope, I received Monsignor Tournier, the Vatican's foreign minister. We have always appreciated the Vatican's role and the pope's work in the Middle East.

[L'ESPRESSO] Do you discuss the future of Jerusalem with the Vatican, too?

[Arafat] Yes, of course.

[L'ESPRESSO] And what solution do you suggest for that city?

[Arafat] Jerusalem must become the capital of two states—Palestine and Israel.

[L'ESPRESSO] The Israelis say that a city cannot have this dual role.

[Arafat] Why not? Is Rome not the capital of two states?

[L'ESPRESSO] Mr. Chairman, you were expected in Jericho at the end of last December...

[Arafat] I am not here because I want it but because of Prime Minister Rabin's fault. It is he that has always postponed the implementation of the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington 13 September. It was he who repeated that there are no sacrosanct deadlines to be observed. Rabin promised Egyptian President Mubarak that we would meet in Cairo about 10 days after the ceremony and handshake in Washington to give an immediate go-ahead to the agreements signed. But nothing has been implemented yet.

[L'ESPRESSO] Do you feel that you have been duped?

[Arafat] No. I think that playing for time and constant postponements are part of the Israelis' mentality.

[L'ESPRESSO] What would you say to Rabin if you were to meet with him tomorrow?

[Arafat] I would remind him that Menahem Begin, the former prime minister and leader of the right, the one who waged the war in Lebanon, implemented the agreements with Egypt extremely strictly and precisely, including the dismantling of the Jewish settlement in Sinai.

Rabin once said: "I will make Arafat sweat"—for both the body and the mind. People pay to go to the sauna. And I will make Rabin sweat, too.

[L'ESPRESSO] Mr. Chairman, does Israel really want peace?

[Arafat] Ask them.

[L'ESPRESSO] What do you think?

[Arafat] They are raising both formal and substantive obstacles. I repeat: They are playing for time.

[L'ESPRESSO] But Rabin has major problems within his own country. And we know from a reliable source that the Israeli prime minister is waiting for a goodwill gesture from you...

[Arafat] What? Rabin dares to request a generous gesture from me, his victim? It is we who are entitled to demand a courageous gesture—and soon.

[L'ESPRESSO] Of what kind?

[Arafat] To guarantee my people's safety. Look at what happened in Hebron between Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 March. The city was actually under siege. They used missiles. And still Rabin expects a gesture from me?

[L'ESPRESSO] What concrete measures do you expect from Israel, in Hebron?

[Arafat] To bring in international observers. Also, to implement the Security Council resolution that envisages the disarmament of the settlers. Furthermore, there must be a Palestinian police force in the city of the patriarchs.

[L'ESPRESSO] But Rabin says that your police must be under Israeli command, since there is only one sovereignty and only one authority.

[Arafat] Look, according to the Washington declaration, two sovereignties, two authorities, and two responsibilities are envisaged in the occupied territories. Where there are Israeli citizens, the responsibility for their safety lies with the Israeli state. And where there are Palestinians, the responsibility is ours.

[L'ESPRESSO] But will the Palestinian police in Hebron protect the settlers too?

[Arafat] If they are in transit, of course, like any self-respecting police force. But I do not see why the settlers should continue to live in the heart of the city, in our homes. Let them go to Qiryat Arba'.

[L'ESPRESSO] Mr. Chairman, does that mean that you want the settlers simply to be transferred to the settlement overlooking the city, not sent back to Israel?

[Arafat] At this stage, yes. We will discuss their return to Israel in the negotiations.

[L'ESPRESSO] The tragic events in Hebron have split Israeli public opinion. Shim'on Peres even described the fanatic settlers as "Nazis." What did it feel like to hear an Israeli minister talking like that about other Jews?

[Arafat] It was certainly a very courageous act. In any case, I appreciate Peres, and I think I can say that an atmosphere of understanding has been created between us.

[L'ESPRESSO] Did you know that Peres recently described you as "a real leader"?

[Arafat] Really? Why?

[L'ESPRESSO] According to Peres, a real leader knows how to lead his people to peace, not to war, even when his people no longer have confidence in peace.

[Arafat] Look, after the Hebron massacre, after months when no progress was made in the peace process, my people really did lose confidence in the outcome of the negotiations. But I will not give in, despite all the enemies of peace. And do you know why?

[L'ESPRESSO] Tell us.

[Arafat] Because the essence of leadership is to have a vision and a blueprint for the future.

[L'ESPRESSO] THE INDEPENDENT wrote recently that when you went to Damascus to brief Hafiz al-Asad on the Washington agreement, the Syrian president apparently told you: "You are sitting on the same seat where al-Sadat sat."

[Arafat] That is not true. He would never have dared to speak like that. In any case, let us not forget that that is also al-Asad's seat.

[L'ESPRESSO] The enemies of peace include the Islamic fundamentalists of Hamas. Paradoxically, some people in Israel have suggested the idea of banishing them to a desert island together with the Jewish fascists. And leaving them to settle matters among themselves.

[Arafat] I do not like that theory. There is no parallel between the Islamic fundamentalists and the Israeli fascists. So much so that Rabin himself has supported Hamas from the outset, perhaps in the belief that he could thus weaken the PLO's leadership.

[L'ESPRESSO] After Washington is your destiny bound to that of Rabin?

[Arafat] I called that handshake the peace of the brave. Now each must draw the necessary conclusions at home and shoulder his own responsibilities.

[L'ESPRESSO] Tell us about your dream of peace.

[Arafat] I want two states—Palestine and Israel, next to each other. Ours will be a confederation with Jordan, in accordance with the decision of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. We also need a kind of Marshall Plan for the entire region.

[L'ESPRESSO] So is your plan similar to that of the regional common market that Peres is talking about?

[Arafat] Yes, it is.

[L'ESPRESSO] Has the West already granted you some economic assistance?

[Arafat] We have received only promises. With two exceptions—Spain, which has granted us credit worth \$8.5 million, and Greece.

[L'ESPRESSO] What do you expect from Italy?

[Arafat] A great deal. We have always maintained excellent relations with Italy. And now I call on the Italian people to help us. We need roads, schools, hospitals, aqueducts, an airport, sea ports. And also a telecommunications system. Everything, in other words.

[L'ESPRESSO] Mr. Chairman, one final question: What similarities are there between the Palestinians and the Israelis?

[Arafat] There are many: We cannot keep a secret, we are gossips, we like publicity, propaganda, and above all we like the mass media. And we cannot live without democracy.

'Arafat Receives, Briefs Chinese Envoy

*LD3003190994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Text] This afternoon, the brother president, leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], received his excellency the ambassador of the People's Republic of China. The brother president Abu-'Ammar briefed him on the current events inside the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly after the Gaza massacre and the effect of these criminal acts on the peace process.

Brother Abu-'Ammar also briefed him on the Israeli replies to the Palestinian demands and charged him with carrying a message to the Chinese leadership in which he asks for China's support and efforts to implement the Security Council's Resolution 904, which stipulates the provision of international protection to our people in the occupied territories.

Qaddumi Interviewed on Peace Talks Resumption

*TA3003192294 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 30
Mar 94 pp 1, 7*

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut "following the Arab foreign ministers meeting" in Cairo on 26 March]

[Text] [Arna'ut] What are the latest developments with regard to the resumption of the peace talks and the principles which cannot be ignored regarding this matter in light of recent events in the occupied territories? And when do you expect the talks to resume?

[Qaddumi] From the outset we insisted that the talks be resumed after the Security Council adopts a resolution and after measures are taken on the ground. In other words, providing measures for the protection of our people in the occupied territories, especially in Hebron, in order to create a suitable climate for the negotiating process. Hence, to date we have been discussing those measures with the Israelis and the cosponsors before beginning talks about other issues.

[Arna'ut] Recent Palestinian statements indicate that there is an emphasis by the Palestinian leadership on the presence of international protection in Hebron although there are other areas which require such protection no less than Hebron. Is the leadership insisting on the presence of this protection in Hebron only?

[Qaddumi] Security Council Resolution 904 covered all the occupied territories, but in particular we asked for special arrangements in Hebron because of the presence of settlers and students there and because of the ongoing friction in the city, which regrettably witnessed those

repugnant massacres. However, all the measures that we demanded cover all the occupied territories. Those include the presence of international observers and Palestinian security forces and the adoption of measures aimed at disarming the settlers and preventing them from wandering around with their weapons. Moreover, other measures will have to be adopted so that we will have enough reason to resume the talks.

[Arna'ut] Do you believe that the international presence, on the basis of the Security Council resolution, will be adequate in providing protection for the Palestinian people under occupation?

[Qaddumi] This is one of the measures that must be taken in accordance with the Security Council resolution, but the definite guarantee for our people in the occupied territories is when the Palestinian police assumes this protection. Above all, there must first be a speedy Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the Jericho area.

[Arna'ut] Don't you believe that the presence of police in the Hebron area, then in other parts of the West Bank, will be a deviation from the Declaration of Principles? And in light of Israeli procrastination, will this not mean—as some observers have indicated—that Gaza and Jericho will be first and last?

[Qaddumi] This is neither correct nor accurate. The withdrawal is supposed to begin on 13 April. Afterward, the Israeli forces will withdraw from all heavily populated areas and be deployed along the red line. Thus, there will be an initial and speedy withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, then before elections are held in July there will be another withdrawal from all the Palestinian territories.

[Arna'ut] Do you expect the arrival of the first vanguards of the Palestinian police to the occupied territories?

[Qaddumi] First of all agreement must be reached on security measures, then in the talks we will discuss the date for the entry of these battalions into Gaza and the Jericho area.

[Arna'ut] What is your perception of the nature of Palestinian action in the period up to the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories? And are there any guarantees that a massacre, similar to the one in Hebron, will not be repeated?

[Qaddumi] There are no guarantees that similar incidents will not occur, but world public opinion, which has denounced and condemned such deeds, has put Israel in a difficult position. However, we cannot say for sure that such deeds will not be repeated. We have absolutely no confidence in the occupation. As long as there is occupation and as long as Israeli soldiers suppress the Palestinian people, resistance must continue by all available means.

[Arna'ut] Don't you think there is a contradiction between the continuation of the talks and the practices by the Israeli authorities against the sons of our people?

[Qaddumi] First of all, war is another form of policy. Second, it does not at all prevent talks from taking place. These sorts of talks were conducted when Vietnam was waging a war. Vietnam witnessed the most abhorrent kinds of inhuman wars and the most intensive bombing during the negotiations that were held between the Americans and the Vietnamese. This is the nature of aggressive wars waged by occupation forces and international imperialist forces.

[Arna'ut] Many calls have been made by the Palestinian street to the Palestinian leadership to halt the talks until a change occurs in the Israeli position. Meanwhile, the leadership is going to decide to resume the talks. How could the leadership be harmonious with the mood of the masses in the Palestinian street?

[Qaddumi] First of all, undoubtedly leaderships are the ones representing public opinion. Second, what is the alternative to negotiations? Will we achieve what we want if we halt the talks completely or if we walk out of the talks and not insist on implementation of the Security Council resolutions in terms of the adoption of measures for the protection of our people?

[Arna'ut] Does continued Israeli settlement activity in Jerusalem not represent a violation of the Oslo accord and the bases and principles of the invitation to the Madrid conference?

[Qaddumi] The United States and European countries say that settlements are an obstacle to peace. European countries stress in official communiques that settlements are illegal. In Resolution 465, the Security Council says that these settlements are illegal and must be dismantled. For all these reasons, we say that we adhere to international legitimacy and that the solution should be based on this legitimacy. We cannot make the slightest concession on these rights.

[Arna'ut] What is the state of Arab coordination regarding the resumption of talks?

[Qaddumi] We maintain bilateral contacts with our brothers in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan and consult on these issues. Although some Arab states believe the Oslo accord to be a deviation from Arab coordination, they must understand that there is a transitional stage. This stage does not exist in the other Arab tracks. We had to take off in order to conclude the transitional stage so that we would reach the final stage with the Arabs and so that all of us would negotiate over this stage, leading ultimately to a comprehensive peace agreement which all of us will sign at the same time.

[Arna'ut] Did the Arab foreign ministers meeting today yield positive results for the Palestinian territories and the Arab arena in terms of reconciliation and joint Arab action, for example?

[Qaddumi] There were positive indications. All the Arab foreign ministers agreed to the Palestinian decisions, supported the intifadah, stressed that Jerusalem was part of the occupied Palestinian territories, and issued a statement condemning the Hebron massacre. These are positive measures that have begun to evolve with time and prove the Arabs' desire to enhance Arab coordination and solidarity.

[Arna'ut] Do you have a statement for the Palestinian people?

[Qaddumi] If there is one thing I want to say it is that our conflict is long but we will triumph. I am not saying this to encourage our great people who have waited for many years, but the historical process affirms that we will triumph and regain all our rights. Patience is a good thing, but action and resistance should continue. While resisting, we are keen for the safety of our cadres and are trying to reduce our losses as much as possible. We will continue in this struggle and will not become restless. We will act when we see that such action is beneficial to our cause.

'Urayqat on Centrality of Settlements Issue

PM3103152594 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 31 Mar 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "'Urayqat: Settlement and Peace Will Never Meet; Solving Palestinian Problem Is Basis for Stability in Region"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—A senior Palestinian leader has warned that the peace process is threatened with collapse as a result of the Israeli Government's intransigence and refusal to seriously discuss the issue of evacuating the settlements as a fundamental point in the file of the bilateral negotiations between the two sides. He stressed that the Palestinian leadership, which is discussing the demands of its people, is fully aware that "settlement is a time bomb which will explode in its face later unless it is defused completely." And that the "U.S. Administration is responsible for obstructing the peace process."

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation in Washington, said at a seminar in the British capital during the evening of the day before yesterday that "the Middle East problem did not begin between the Arabs and Israel. It began inside Palestine. And without solving the Palestinian problem there will be no solution in the Middle East."

He criticized the U.S. position on the Hebron massacre and the U.S. Administration's threat to use its influence inside the international organization to confront it if we insist on the implementation of the UN resolutions. He added that he was in Washington when the massacre occurred and that he held several round of talks, but "President Clinton and his secretary of state, Warren Christopher, failed to realize that the perpetrator of the massacre is a settler and the main cause is settlement."

Dr. 'Urayqat warned that "settlement and peace will never meet," stressing that Washington alone can salvage the negotiations, which were suspended after the massacre. He criticized its international position of appeasing Israel, accusing it of offering Israel preferential and biased treatment by excluding Europe from the peace process and confronting Russia, the co-sponsor of the negotiations. The Americans and the Israelis are imposing their will on us, instead of sitting with us to negotiate."

'Urayqat denied that the Palestinians demanded a solution to the settlers issue only after the Hebron massacre. He said: "The massacre made it a strong issue." He added that the Israelis had always refused to discuss the settlements issue, stressing that none of our fears would materialize."

The head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington negotiations added that "failure to include the settlement issue on the negotiating agenda will inevitably lead to the death of the negotiations, and the Israeli Government alone is responsible for what settlers did and are doing."

He went on: "Even if our leadership decides—under the pressures to which it is exposed—to join the negotiations once again, the negotiations will die if this issue is not resolved. And peace requires evacuating the settlers first, otherwise any measure will be merely a measure to make the peace process look prettier."

'Urayqat warned the U.S. Administration, the Europeans, and any party interested in the success of the peace process that "the failure of the peace process will not only affect the Palestinians and the Israelis, but will have a regional impact." 'Urayqat accused the Israeli offers to end the effects of the Hebron massacre of lacking seriousness. He said that "the offer to disarm the settlers is not a serious one, because they are all reservists and thus entitled to keep weapons in their homes." [passage omitted]

He said that 72 settlers in Hebron are protected around the clock by 1,400 Israeli soldiers. "So what sort of negotiations do we wish to continue if the problem is not included on the agenda." Addressing the Palestinian leadership, he said sorry, but "the settlers remaining while Palestinian police forces are deployed there would lead in the event of a massacre like the Hebron massacre to one of two things:

"First, inhabitants killing settlers in retaliation, resulting in Israel sending its aircraft to destroy 'Arafat's headquarters and police centers;

"Second, inhabitants throwing stones at settlers, thus initiating a whirlpool of successive reactions, taking us back to square one."

He added: "We asked Rabin to settle his options, so he chose settlement, domination, and the logic of force.

Rabin is supported by the U.S. Administration, the U.S. Army, and senior U.S. envoy Dennis Ross."

'Urayqat admitted the Palestinians are faced with deep and unprecedented difficulties and changes, saying that the Oslo agreement is not a final peace agreement. He said: "The agreement contains 63 clauses, none of which has a mechanism for implementation and each needs an agreement of its own."

Asked about the disagreement with President Yasir 'Arafat, 'Urayqat stressed that he ['Arafat] "is a source of strength for us, and we are not criticizing him. We realize he is merely a human being like all of us." He added: "We want peace more than any other people, but not at any price, because we will not accept any solution seeking to reorganize the Israeli occupation."

Palestinian figures who attended the seminar noted that Dr. 'Urayqat's speech reflected the view of the Palestinians inside the occupied territories, who are urging 'Arafat to grant them more powers as regards decision-making vis-a-vis peace and negotiations.

'Urayqat said that Rabin "has the impression that he can do anything without a deterrent in view of the U.S. solidarity and the European silence—which causes me to say that the peace process is approaching its end. This has nothing to do with optimism or pessimism. I just do not know whether or not the process can continue." [passage omitted]

Fatah Closes Offices in Territories

TA0104043894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] The PLO's Fatah organization has closed its offices in the territories in protest at what it calls the continuing massacres of Palestinians. Palestinian sources said the step was part of an effort by Yasir 'Arafat to quell Fatah infighting.

Poll Views Opinions on Peace Talks

TA3103185194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Mar 94 p 15

[Results of opinion poll conducted on 20 March by the Center for Palestine Research and Studies among 1286 West Bank and 692 Gaza Strip residents—all figures as published]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] 1. Do you agree to the PLO's return to the peace talks with Israel?

A. Yes— West Bank and Gaza Strip 17.2 percent; West Bank 14.5 percent; Gaza Strip 22.2 percent.

B. No—West Bank and Gaza Strip 38.5 percent; West Bank 39.5 percent; Gaza Strip 36.7 percent.

C. I agree to the return to the talks if guarantees for international protection are provided—West Bank and Gaza Strip 38.8 percent; West Bank 39.6 percent; Gaza Strip 37.2 percent.

D. No opinion—West Bank and Gaza Strip 5.5 percent; West Bank 6.4 percent; Gaza Strip 3.9 percent.

2. Will you agree to the resumption of the talks if discussion over the issue of settlements is postponed to the final stage?

A. Yes—West Bank and Gaza Strip 7.7 percent; West Bank 8 percent; Gaza Strip 8.7 percent.

B. Yes, provided the settlers are evacuated from Hebron—West Bank and Gaza Strip 30.8 percent; West Bank 28.5 percent; Gaza Strip 33.9 percent.

C. No—West Bank and Gaza Strip 55.3 percent; West Bank 56.3 percent; Gaza Strip 52.4 percent.

D. No opinion—West Bank and Gaza Strip 6.2 percent; West Bank 7.2 percent; Gaza Strip 5.0 percent.

3. Do you believe that the settler who committed the massacre at Hebron's al-Ibrahimi Mosque acted alone, acted together with a terrorist group, acted with the cooperation of the Israeli Army, or acted with the help of two or three persons?

A. Acted alone—West Bank and Gaza Strip 1.3 percent; West Bank 1.0 percent; Gaza Strip 2.3 percent.

B. Acted together with a terrorist group—West Bank and Gaza Strip 14.6 percent; West Bank 12.8 percent; Gaza Strip 17.9 percent.

C. Acted with the cooperation of the Israeli Army—West Bank and Gaza Strip 29.2 percent; West Bank 25.8 percent; Gaza Strip 33.8 percent.

D. Acted with the help of two or three persons—West Bank and Gaza Strip 50.8 percent; West Bank 56.0 percent; Gaza Strip 41.6 percent.

E. No opinion—West Bank and Gaza Strip 4.1 percent; West Bank 4.4 percent; Gaza Strip 4.4 percent.

4. How do you assess the PLO's performance after the Hebron massacre? (The PLO's handling of the massacre consequences)

A. Good, in general—West Bank and Gaza Strip 18.8 percent; West Bank 18 percent; Gaza Strip 20.9 percent.

B. Average—West Bank and Gaza Strip 23.1 percent; West Bank 23.1 percent; Gaza Strip 24.5 percent.

C. Below the required level—West Bank and Gaza Strip 48.1 percent; West Bank 48.6 percent; Gaza Strip 46.1 percent.

D. No opinion—West Bank and Gaza Strip 10.0 percent; West Bank 10.3 percent; Gaza Strip 8.5 percent.

5. In view of the current political and economic situation in the occupied territories and the Palestinian-Israeli talks, are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future?

A. Optimistic—West Bank and Gaza Strip 20.5 percent; West Bank 15.8 percent; Gaza Strip 30.8 percent.

B. Pessimistic—West Bank and Gaza Strip 51.2 percent; West Bank 57.1 percent; Gaza Strip 40.1 percent.

C. Uncertain—West Bank and Gaza Strip 28.3 percent; West Bank 27.1 percent; Gaza Strip 29.1 percent.

6. If elections to choose a Palestinian council for the transitional self-government were held today, which party's candidates would you vote for?

A. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—West Bank and Gaza Strip 2.5 percent; West Bank 3.0 percent; Gaza Strip 1.1 percent.

B. Fatah—West Bank and Gaza Strip 36.4 percent; West Bank 34.8 percent; Gaza Strip 40.1 percent.

C. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—West Bank and Gaza Strip 15.6 percent; West Bank 14.1 percent; Gaza Strip 19.8 percent.

D. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—West Bank and Gaza Strip 7.3 percent; West Bank 6.1 percent; Gaza Strip 8.6 percent.

E. FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union]—West Bank and Gaza Strip 2.0 percent; West Bank 2.6 percent; Gaza Strip 0.6 percent.

F. Islamic Jihad—West Bank and Gaza Strip 3.6 percent; West Bank 3.6 percent; Gaza Strip 3.5 percent.

G. The People's Party—West Bank and Gaza Strip 2.0 percent; West Bank 2.4 percent; Gaza Strip 1.0 percent.

H. Islamist independents—West Bank and Gaza Strip 7.9 percent; West Bank 9.0 percent; Gaza Strip 5.3 percent.

I. Nationalist independents—West Bank and Gaza Strip 11.1 percent; West Bank 12.5 percent; Gaza Strip 9.4 percent.

J. Other groups—West Bank and Gaza Strip 1.1 percent; West Bank 1.1 percent; Gaza Strip 1.2 percent.

K. None of the above—West Bank and Gaza Strip 10.5 percent; West Bank 10.8 percent; Gaza Strip 9.4 percent.

7. What is the best way for choosing Palestine National Council [PNC] members from the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

A. Holding general elections throughout the occupied territories—West Bank and Gaza Strip 77.2 percent; West Bank 80.2 percent; Gaza Strip 72.3 percent.

B. Continued appointment by the PLO leadership—West Bank and Gaza Strip 10.6 percent; West Bank 9.0 percent; Gaza Strip 14.6 percent.

C. Appointment by political organizations on the basis of quotas—West Bank and Gaza Strip 9.9 percent; West Bank 8.9 percent; Gaza Strip 10.0 percent.

D. None of the above—West Bank and Gaza Strip 2.3 percent; West Bank 1.9 percent; Gaza Strip 3.1 percent.

8. If elections were held in the occupied territories to choose PNC members, I would support those elections:

A. As an alternative to choosing the transitional self-rule council—West Bank and Gaza Strip 33.4 percent; West Bank 36.7 percent; Gaza Strip 25.4 percent.

B. If the elections are not an alternative to choosing the transitional self-rule council—West Bank and Gaza Strip 29.5 percent; West Bank 30.3 percent; Gaza Strip 30.8 percent.

C. If those elected are also considered members of the transitional self-rule council—West Bank and Gaza Strip 24.7 percent; West Bank 23.9 percent; Gaza Strip 25.7 percent.

D. None of the above—West Bank and Gaza Strip 12.4 percent; West Bank 9.1 percent; Gaza Strip 18.1 percent.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Iranian Envoy Explains Stance on Kashmir

LD3103143394 Tehran IRNA in English 1301 GMT
31 Mar 94

[Text] New Delhi, March 31, IRNA—Dispelling the doubt of various Kashmiri freedom struggle groups on the role Iran played in the events that led to the withdrawal of Pak-sponsored resolution on Kashmir at the recently concluded UN Human Rights Commission summit at Geneva, the Iranian ambassador to India, 'Ali Reza Sheykh 'Attar [name as received], has said these have resulted from the lack of a "correct, deep and comprehensive information of events". The ambassador's interview, originally given to IRNA, New Delhi, has today appeared in leading newspapers of the valley.

On Iran's position on Kashmir, 'Attar says "his country believes in a lasting solution to the dispute fulfilling the aspiration of Kashmiri people".

'Attar dismisses the allegation that Iran took a pro-India stand in the interest of its commercial ties with that country as "misconceived". He states that "commercial ties with Pakistan are equally important to Iran. Moreover, Iran has never compromised its principles for its economic interests. Kashmiris are aware of this fact".

Cautioning the people of Kashmir of the West's designs, the ambassador warns: "These powers do not stand for the well-being of Muslims. Therefore, they should not be given any excuse to establish their foothold in the region". "The West's intervention has never been in the interests of Muslims. Palestine, Somalia and Bosnia bear testimony to this", adds the ambassador.

While holding the view that Iran's initiative at Geneva proved "effective", the ambassador is quoted to have said "both India and Pakistan have appreciated it". The ambassador also says that the Iranian mediation came in the wake of the two countries' interest to sort out their differences over the resolution at the summit.

Reposing confidence in growing political awareness among the people of Kashmir, 'Attar concludes that now "the case of resolving the Kashmir tangle through negotiations among all sides has become stronger".

Algeria

Court Sentences 8 to Death in Absentia

LD0104082694 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic*
0600 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] At its session on 28 March, the special court of Algiers judicial council passed eight death sentences in absentia and another sentence of eight years imprisonment against an armed group of nine members on charges of forming and belonging to an armed group that aims at infringing on state security, killing, spreading sabotage, and premeditated murder.

According to a statement issued by the special judicial prosecutor, the details of the case followed the investigation and interrogation of one member of the group who was arrested. This is Sedrat Rabih, whose involvement in this group was proved.

He revealed that he used to collect and coordinate information in the region surrounding Boudouaou, and steal rifles from citizens. He assassinated three policemen in Hey 850 Maskan in Boudouaou.

Opposition Leader on Government, FIS, Other Issues

BR3003122194 *Paris LE FIGARO in French* 30 Mar 94
p 36

["Exclusive" interview with Sa'id Sadi, president of the Algerian Movement for the Republic and secretary general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, by Irina de Chikoff and Philippe Gelie; place and date not given: "Algeria: Said Sadi's Appeal for Resistance; According to the Democrats' Leader, 'Algerian Society' Has Understood That It Has To Assume Responsibility Itself, Even for Security Issues"—first six paragraphs are LE FIGARO introduction]

[Text] The president of the Movement for the Republic, a 46-year old doctor and psychiatrist who is secretary general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], has just launched an appeal for resistance in Algiers.

He was one of the few politicians present during the 22 March demonstration in which more than 50,000 people, mainly women, marched through the streets of the capital to present a rejection front to the violence of the Islamic fundamentalists. He has never minced his words in talking about the violent collapse of the regime formed immediately after independence, of which fundamentalism is just a by-product. He condemns the government's relentless pursuit of the same policy despite all the evidence, namely advocating dialogue with the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders while repressing acts of terrorism.

Condemned by the armed Islamic groups, Said Sadi continues to live in Algeria. Forced to constantly move house and cover his tracks, he makes numerous speeches and attends numerous meetings throughout the country

to rally around a single republican platform all those who are not yet resigned to the worst.

Born in a poor family in Aghriba near Tizi Ouzou—his father was a road mender—Said Sadi has always been an oppositionist. As a high school student he had a brush with prison. As a student, he was frequently in trouble with the authorities because he took part in cultural groups which escaped the control of the single party. Said Sadi became a doctor and is the driving force of Berber Spring. In 1980, he organized the first general strike in Kabylia against the dictatorship and appeared before the State Security Court.

Barely had he been released when he reoffended. In 1982 Said Sadi headed a semiclandestine publication. Between 1983 and 1985, he worked on the creation of the Human Rights League. Brought before the courts once again, he was condemned to three years' imprisonment and remained in the Lambese prison. Pardoned in 1987, he did not give up. He was behind a new strike and called for the holding of a national assembly of the Amazigh cultural movement, which resulted in the creation of the RCD which, in the June 1990 municipal elections, won 87 communes whereas the fundamentalists won 900 city councils.

When Mohammed Boudiaf became president of the HCE (Higher State Committee), Said Sadi regained hope, but the head of state was assassinated six months after his return to Algeria in June 1992. Disaster. Panic. The political class did nothing or emigrated. Said Sadi has not given up. He knows that his country is already at war. He chose his camp a long time ago—that of resistance. He is organizing it.

[LE FIGARO] You have just launched an appeal for resistance. Do you think that Algeria is at war?

[Sadi] A civil war is being imposed on society and we must face it. One section of the nation is organizing the genocide of the other. I will mention just two examples: Outside a high school in the suburbs of Algiers, a 13-year old boy had his throat cut simply because his father is a policeman. A young woman who refused to wear the veil was shot in the head. Hitherto, the majority of Algerians felt that the defense of individuals and goods should be entrusted to the state. It must be admitted that this state is defective. We can no longer spend our time burying our dead.

[LE FIGARO] Does the 22 March demonstration in Algiers, which brought together 50,000 people, the majority of them women, mark a turning-point in the struggle against the FIS?

[Sadi] It is a turning-point for two reasons. First, this demonstration was organized by citizens' movements and associations of women who are among those most seriously threatened by radical Islamic fundamentalism. They are now taking up the fight. Second, this demonstration took place under the banner of resistance. The

slogans clearly proclaimed the rejection of a fundamentalism which is the product of the existing system. Society has understood that it must assume responsibility itself, even for security issues.

[LE FIGARO] Are you planning armed resistance?

[Sadi] Without waiting for my appeal, armed groups have been formed, self-defense cells are emerging to resist fundamentalism. It was therefore necessary to react before control was lost. Just because you are a democrat, it does not mean that you are incapable of using a gun, but war is not the only way of bringing down this regime.

[LE FIGARO] What kind of action are you envisaging?

[Sadi] Demonstrations, especially in Kabylia on 20 April, repeated strikes throughout the country, a boycott of the schools which have become terrorist factories... The situation is deadlocked, but it will not continue to be for long. The word resistance has spread like a trail of gunpowder.

[LE FIGARO] Who will wage this struggle with you?

[Sadi] The priority is to channel all those who reject the Islamic fundamentalist plan. The trade unions, the associations, the political parties understand that they are all equally threatened. The issue goes beyond government-opposition splits. I know senior officials, officers, and diplomats who fully support our approach. Civilian society cannot accept being the hostage of the government and the Islamic fundamentalists. The match will be a three-sided one.

[LE FIGARO] Do you want to open up a "third path" between the FIS and the FLN [National Liberation Front]?

[Sadi] I reject the idea that the FIS and FLN represent two antagonistic options. The FIS is the FLN painted green. Most of its political cadres come from the FLN's inner circle. Islamic fundamentalism is a natural but radical variant of the FLN.

[LE FIGARO] Who is the main enemy?

[Sadi] We must first deal with the government, force it to step down and free the state from the clans. What does the FIS trade on other than the government's negligence and corruption? I am convinced that the Islamic fundamentalists would lose their credibility if the existing regime fell.

[LE FIGARO] How can it be forced to step down?

[Sadi] It is a struggle: These things cannot be requested, they must be seized.

[LE FIGARO] Surely you also have to be able to organize the resistance?

[Sadi] That is the whole problem. The majority of the population are disorientated, crushed by the weight of

social problems. But thinking and active Algeria totally supports our idea for resistance and change.

[LE FIGARO] Is that Algeria not tempted by exile?

[Sadi] A race against time has started, between safeguarding the country and despair. I refuse to cast any stones at those leaving.

[LE FIGARO] Will you not help the FIS by first targeting the existing government?

[Sadi] It is a risk. The Islamic movement's ability to cause trouble is strong enough to take advantage of a power vacuum. The FIS is at war, it is trying to win it. The transfer of power must not be chaotic.

[LE FIGARO] Otherwise?

[Sadi] There are three possible scenarios. First, the collapse of the state. Algiers will not be Tehran but Kabul: We do not have the 2,000 ayatollahs or the 4,000 mullahs who could replace the state with a theocracy. Second, the country's collapse, because Algerian national consciousness is fairly recent. Third hypothesis on which we need to work: All the nation's vital forces say: "That is enough! This suicidal course of tolerating corruption in the heart of the government must be stopped!"

[LE FIGARO] President Zeroual has decided to open the dialogue to all political parties, including the FIS. What do you have to say to him?

[Sadi] I have four questions to put to him: First, do you believe it is possible to dissociate terrorism and fundamentalism? Second, how can you hope that the country will mobilize when you are haggling over the state in the visiting rooms of Blida prison with the Islamic fundamentalist leaders? Third, what form of Islam do you plan to uphold? Four, do you accept that a definitive lesson should be learned from the failure of the system to which you belong?

[LE FIGARO] Are you resolutely opposed to dialogue with the Islamic fundamentalists?

[Sadi] I am not opposed to it on principle but what kind of dialogue can you have through Kalashnikovs? For the time being, the dialogue is merely a relentless pursuit of the same policy despite the evidence. If it is to enable the clans to survive by plunder, we already know where that has led us. Dialogue is a means, not an end.

[LE FIGARO] Is there room for a moderate Islamic movement?

[Sadi] I have never believed in the idea of a moderate Islamic movement in Algeria. What we have is an Islamic movement born of frustration, it can only express itself through extremes. Ali Belhadj (one of the FIS leaders) is the real representative of Islamic fundamentalism in Algeria: He always represents outrage,

extremes, and violence. He is the result of a social failure which could have led to the extreme Left it had been mature in 1970.

[LE FIGARO] So it is secular society against Islamic fundamentalism?

[Sadi] I do not think there is any alternative. Religion and politics must be separated. The regime claims to have found a middle way which does not exist. Even the established Islamic fundamentalists who tried to play that game have been disqualified by the armed groups.

[LE FIGARO] Does the FIS really enjoy popular support?

[Sadi] If that were the case, Algeria would already have toppled. It is perfectly possible to win back the FIS' social base. Many young people who demonstrated with us last week were in the streets with the FIS in 1991. It has constantly been said that the small traders form the Islamic fundamentalists' social base, but they closed their stores on 22 March.

[LE FIGARO] Why is Algeria deadlocked 30 years after independence?

[Sadi] The regime's clan-based and mafia-based organization prevented competition from emerging, efficiency has always been regarded as a luxury we could do without. A kind of mediocrity has been established at all levels. Algeria was rich. Some \$12 billion in aid was showered on us and we managed to gain a debt of \$26 billion.

[LE FIGARO] Is the problem entirely political?

[Sadi] There is also a sociological division. More than 70 percent of the Algerian population is less than 30 years old. I am 46: I have met with the seven or eight main political parties in the country; I was the youngest. Young people are going to extremes because they cannot identify with leaders who are constantly looking to the past.

[LE FIGARO] What is your generation doing to counter that?

[Sadi] What little has been achieved is thanks to my generation. But we are merely technical cooperation agents. Those who administer have never had power and those who have power have never administered.

[LE FIGARO] Do you expect any specific aid from France and Europe?

[Sadi] What is happening in Algeria does not just concern the Algerians. The aim is to uphold peace in the Mediterranean basin. If our allies, who share the values of democracy, do not support us, everybody will suffer. Tehran or Riyadh take their alliances for granted. France and Europe are swinging between compassion and rejection. They ought to stop their credit to the existing

government: They are transfusing a corpse, turning the wheel of misfortune. It is a question of political ecology.

[LE FIGARO] Are you afraid of having to go into exile or underground?

[Sadi] Nothing can be ruled out. But the democracy of exile is not my style. I have to move house frequently, keep my schedule secret... I have already been forced underground to some extent.

Egypt

PLO's 'Arafat To Visit in 'Next 48 Hours'

NC0104090594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0847 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Tunis, 1 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Egypt in the next 48 hours, possibly the day after tomorrow, Sunday [3 April]. He will meet with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian position regarding the negotiations with Israel, which are scheduled to resume in Cairo on the day after tomorrow, Sunday.

In a related development, a senior Palestinian source has stated that Israel unofficially informed the PLO that it approves of a 10,000-member Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho. Israel formerly insisted that the number not exceed 6,000.

Musa Reports to Mubarak on G-15 Summit

Welcomes PLO-Israeli Agreement

NC3103182894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has welcomed the agreement reached today between the Palestinians and the Israelis, which protects the Palestinians in Hebron in the occupied West Bank.

In statements upon his arrival from New Delhi, where he took part in the summit meeting of the Group of 15 that convened in India recently, Musa said that Egypt approves of this agreement if the Palestinians approve of it.

On developments in Burundi, Musa described the situation there as regrettable and said that Egypt tried to contain it. President Husni Mubarak sent an envoy there at the beginning of the crisis. The OAU secretary general also tried to send an African force to Burundi but officials there hesitated in accepting this force.

'Amr Musa noted that this evening he will contact the OAU secretary general to discuss steps that need to be taken to stop acts of violence in Burundi.

He added that he will submit a report on the situation in Burundi to President Hosni Mubarak in his capacity as current OAU chairman.

Answering a question on the situation in South Africa, he said that recent developments there, such as clashes and bloodshed, are painful and will affect the elections. The objective of these elections is to establish democracy.

'Amr Musa said that Egypt is very upset by current developments in South Africa. He pointed out that a message will be sent from Egypt to Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, on this matter.

He added that an understanding will be reached with the OAU secretary general in light of the resolutions that were taken at the recent summit in Harare to find out what can be done to stop the deteriorating situation in South Africa.

On the meetings of the Group of 15, Musa said that Egypt submitted two projects to bolster cooperation among the countries of the group. He pointed out that the ministers of economy and trade will hold a meeting in Marrakech on 15 April before the GATT meeting to define the developing countries' stand on this agreement.

Comments on Proceedings

NC0104112494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that he submitted a report to President Mubarak on the proceedings of the 4th summit of the Group of 15 [G-15] held recently in India.

He said that he briefed the president on the meetings he held with the heads of states who took part in the summit and delivered messages they sent to his excellency in response to his messages.

Musa affirmed in a statement today that the G-15 summit was important and showed that it is continuing its efforts to support the South-South dialogue in an age of world economic blocs.

The foreign minister noted that Egypt submitted two working papers on consolidating cooperation, not only among the G-15 states but among all developing countries. He added that Indonesia, Malaysia, India, and Senegal have also presented working papers on consolidating cooperation among the countries of the South.

Musa affirmed that the 4th G-15 summit gained additional significance with the meeting of the businessmen forum on the sidelines. During this meeting, the private sector's role in consolidating cooperation among the group members was discussed.

He added that a commission was formed to follow up on the issues regarding the consolidation of cooperation and investment and the transfer of technology among the countries of the South.

Minister Musa added that the G-15 ministers of economy, trade, agriculture, scientific research, and technology have been invited to a meeting in Marrakech before the GATT meeting in mid-April to consider the impact GATT will have on developing countries' economies.

The minister said that a number of political issues were also discussed at the summit, primarily the role of the United Nations, the expansion of UN membership, and international terrorism. He noted that the conferees emphasized the need to stand up to that phenomenon, which threatens secure societies.

Device Explodes in al-Jizah Governorate

NC3103112494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1057 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—A locally made explosive device planted by an unidentified man under a car parked outside the International Trade Bank near the al-Zamalik Club fence on Jami'at al-Dual al-'Arabiyyah Street in the al-Muhandisin neighborhood of al-Jizah went off this morning. The explosion caused no casualties but damaged four cars. The bank's windows were also shattered.

Al-Jizah security officials, explosives and other experts, and criminal laboratory experts went to investigate the incident.

Islamic Group Claims Responsibility

NC3103190094 Paris AFP in English 1744 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 31 (AFP)—A powerful bomb exploded at a bank in the Egyptian capital on Thursday [31 March], damaging the building and nearby cars, but causing no casualties, police said.

Witnesses had earlier said several passers-by were lightly injured by the blast, which blew out the building's windows.

The outlawed Islamic militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] later said it had placed a time bomb under a parked car which exploded outside the branch of the Egyptian Trade Development Bank.

The booby-trapped car and four others parked nearby were destroyed when they caught fire.

The al-Jama'ah said in a statement sent to AFP that the attack had been carried out "in revenge for the torture and humiliations inflicted on Islamic detainees."

It was the first bomb explosion at a bank during opening hours, despite a series of such bombings in recent months.

The al-Jama'ah, which has been waging a two-year violent campaign against the secular government of

President Husni Mubarak, previously claimed responsibility for about 10 bombings this month.

The statement warned that more attacks would follow to avenge human rights violations in Egypt's prisons, which it alleged had "increased in recent days."

It also repeated accusations that banks were involved in usury by charging interest, which is outlawed by the Koran.

Coptic Pope Shanudah on Violence, Jerusalem

NC0104094494 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Mar 94
pp 4-5

[Interview with Coptic Pope Shanudah by 'Abdallah al-Sinnawi; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sinnawi] What were the motives of the attack on the al-Muharrag Monastery? According to your information, was it an isolated incident or was it premeditated?

[Shanudah] I do not know the motives of those people; they are in their minds and hearts, and I cannot express them. But the incident apparently took place as follows: Some monks were seeing off guests to a microbus outside. The monastery's door was opened. A terrorist happened to be passing by in his car. The door was open, the man had a machine gun in his hand, and the chance was there. He fired his bullets and killed two monks and some guests. It was merely an opportunity that he found too good to miss.

[Al-Sinnawi] Do you believe that the attack was not planned?

[Shanudah] I believe that it was not planned or premeditated. No one knew that the monastery's door would be open at that particular time and that some monks would be out seeing some guests off. It was merely a chance incident.

[Al-Sinnawi] Is it not possible that the attack was an attempt, even an individual one, to create sectarian sedition?

[Shanudah] The term "sectarian sedition" was invented by [the late President] Anwar al-Sadat. We had never known this term before al-Sadat. These people want to disrupt public order in general, and if this can be achieved by attacks on foreign tourists, operations against police, bombs against banks, or attacks on Copts, then it is fine. Even trains are now being attacked; the aim is to disrupt security. Moreover, the monasteries date back to the Roman era. They are like castles, with high walls; it is not easy to attack them. I have no doubt that the attack was individual and largely carried out by chance. We cannot talk about "chance," unplanned sedition.

[Al-Sinnawi] When was the last time a monastery was attacked?

[Shanudah] This is the first time in the modern age. The whole thing means that the attacker had no feelings of love and was far from right. What was the sin of some monks or monastery guests? Monks are virtuous, humble worshipers who have nothing to do with any disputes or rivalries. Why should they be attacked? But do not forget that the al-Muharrag Monastery is located in Asyut, which is raging with violence.

[Al-Sinnawi] Some people say monasteries and churches are storing weapons for the decisive time.

[Shanudah] What is the decisive time?

[Al-Sinnawi] When the prestige of the state is about to fall and the groups of political Islam come close to governing.

[Shanudah] No. The state's prestige cannot be lost. Anyway, this is a rumor that has been proved false and that we have repeatedly denied. If some people are exaggerating things to the point where they say without thinking that the monasteries contain weapons arsenals, then my response to them is clear:

First, our monasteries and churches are open to anyone, including non-Christians. Our Muslim brothers frequently visit these places for social and national functions. I say it once more: You have carte blanche, go see for yourselves whether there are weapons.

Second, the Christians do not carry arms and will not do so unless they are provided by the state, the Armed Forces, or the police. How can the Christian, whose religion teaches him a life of modesty and tells him to turn his other cheek to whoever slaps him, bear arms against his brothers in the homeland, against his society? At the end of al-Sadat's presidency, large numbers of Coptic bishops, priests, and members of the laity were arrested. Did you ever hear anyone calling for the use of weapons?

Third, where is the Ministry of Interior on this matter? Why has it not yet discovered the alleged arsenals of weapons in the monasteries and churches? The churches and monasteries are open to it. Why, throughout the past years, have we not heard or read in the newspapers about arms being seized in a monastery or church?

[Al-Sinnawi] Could the deteriorating security situation provide the necessary reason for some Copts to think about forming militias or starting to train in the use of weapons? This is a possibility that has evidence to prove it.

[Shanudah] It is impossible to have such militias, and also impossible for the security situation to deteriorate to such an extent. Is it possible that some individual troublemakers, or a handful of individuals, could lead to a complete breakdown of the security system and the collapse of the state? I completely rule out a scenario like the one you are talking about. I do not only rule it out,

but I regard it as impossible. It is intended to create an atmosphere of fear among people; no more, no less. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sinnawi] After the Hebron massacre and its repercussions, do you feel satisfied with your stances prior to the massacre regarding banning visits to Jerusalem until Copts and Muslims gain access to it together? What would your stance have been had the head of the Egyptian church responded to the calls for normalization at once, before the massacre had taken place?

[Shanudah] We follow a basic principle that we are convinced of from the bottom of our hearts. Many things happen, and we shall continue to have the same stance. When some tourist agencies continued to advertise in the newspapers about trips to Jerusalem because they believed that the Gaza-Jericho Agreement had found a solution to the Palestinian problem, I said: "Listen to me people. The problems have not yet been resolved. The situation has not changed yet, despite the Gaza-Jericho Agreement." Israel is still placing obstacles in matters such as the area of Jericho, the crossings, and other issues.

This agreement, which many did not like and others considered a mere step, required tremendous effort to be achieved. There is a popular saying: We accepted defeat, but even defeat rejected us.

I said: The situation is not over yet and our stance continues to be the same. I published many statements in the public newspapers and Coptic magazines. I still cling to the stances I expressed in these statements. Then, the Hebron massacre took place to prove that what we had said was right. Travel agencies, whether owned by Muslims or Copts, should place their national principles and the general interests of the whole Arab homeland before all else. They should not profit from tourism or use superficial advertising that takes advantage of people's love and respect for Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sinnawi] After the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, the al-Azhar shaykh called for liberating Jerusalem. He said that this is the duty of every Muslim. Is there a possibility of coordinating stances with the office of al-Azhar shaykh on this issue?

[Shanudah] Yes. We call on him to discuss with us the practical stances for liberating Jerusalem and retrieving our Islamic and Christian holy shrines. [passage omitted]

16 'Terrorists' Arrested in al-Qalyubiyah

NC3103182994 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Mar 94 p 18

[Report by Manal al-Ghamri]

[Excerpts] The security organs in al-Qalyubiyah discovered a den in Qalyub while 16 terrorists belonging to extremist groups in al-Fayyum, al-Minya, and Asyut were meeting there to recruit a number of youngsters

into the organization to carry out terrorist activities. The terrorists' den was discovered after Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar, director of al-Qalyubiyah security directorate, received information that a number of people were visiting a house in a remote area of Qalyub. [passage omitted]

The Higher State Security Prosecution Office will interrogate the following arrested defendants: 'Isam 'Abd-al-Sattar 'Abd-al-Sadiq, 'Abd-al-Raziq 'Abd-al-Salam, Hasan 'Abd-al-Mu'min, Ahmad Salim Miliji, Nasir 'Ali Hasan, 'Adil Fathi 'Abd-al-Salam, Nasr Mustafa Hasan, Hashim Musa'id 'Id, 'Abd-al-Rahim Kamil Hasan, Khalid Muhammad Dahi, Jamal Ahmad al-Rajihi, Majid Ramadan Muhammad, Rammah Sayyid Muhammad, Sa'id Ramadan 'Ali, Taha 'Abd-al-Hakim, and Muhammad Sa'd.

Asyut 'Terrorists' Arrested While Monitoring Police

NC3103184994 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Mar 94 p 18

[Report by Murid Subhi]

[Excerpt] The Asyut security organs have arrested five dangerous terrorists whose job it was to monitor the movements of policemen and their houses in obedience to instructions given them by fugitive terrorist leaders. The plan was to prepare for a number of terrorist operations following the capture of some of their leaders and the liquidation of others in armed clashes with the police.

A responsible security source stated that these terrorists were arrested during raids on dens of terrorism in the slum area of al-Walidiyah in Asyut city. The raid was staged after a terrorist element informed on this group that was shadowing the movements of some police officers, watching their houses, and reporting this information to those charged with implementing the new terrorist plan despite the failure of most of their criminal plans. The source added that the security forces are continuing their encirclement of al-Walidiyah area, which is regarded as a criminal and terrorist den in Asyut.

The raids resulted in the arrest of 23 active terrorists, including two important terrorists from Abu Tij, and the capture of two rifles, one Lee Enfield and a hunting rifle. [passage omitted]

Asyut Governorate Divided Into 4 Security Zones

NC2703193094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1817 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has decided to divide Asyut Governorate into four zones, each of which will be supervised by an officer with the rank of major general.

The minister also decided to appoint two deputies to the director of Asyut security to facilitate the issuance and following up of decisions.

The decision falls within the context of the security strategy pursued by the Interior Ministry in view of the geographical terrain and social nature of Asyut Governorate.

The interior minister's decision also took care to bolster the Asyut security directorate with a group of highly trained officers to meet current security needs.

Minister al-Alfi met earlier today with the new commands that have moved to Asyut Governorate and instructed them on security operations there.

The minister also issued a decision to set up four public directorates in the prison authority and to upgrade the latter into a department.

These directorates have been bolstered by commanding officers who enjoy a high level of security performance.

Human Rights Group Urges Release of 22 Lawyers

NC3103211294 Paris AFP in English 2050 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 31 (AFP)—An Egyptian human rights group called Thursday [31 March] for the release of 22 lawyers held for up to four years for defending Moslem militants.

The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights said in a statement the detention of the lawyers was "an act of arbitrary detention ... in violation of both the Egyptian constitution and law as well as their basic human rights."

It said most of the lawyers had been "found innocent by the courts of all charges brought against them" and were being held despite orders for their release.

"This is a particularly alarming violation in view of the role that these lawyers play in upholding the integrity of the law," the statement added.

It said the lawyers had been held because they had visited and prepared appeals for prisoners charged in terrorist cases and were falsely accused of passing on information to people on the outside of the prison.

One of the attorneys, Hasan al-Gharabawi Shihatah, has been held since 1989 even though he was cleared of all charges in May 1990 and despite 25 release orders, the group added.

It has sent a list of 150 names to President Husni Mubarak of people still being held despite being declared innocent.

Islamic militants have targeted banks and foreigners in a two-year campaign to topple Mubarak's government.

Commentary Views Hebron Security Arrangements

NC3103180694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "The Peace Process Between the Palestinians and Israel Overcomes a Big Hurdle"]

[Text] If the weeks that have passed since the heinous al-Ibrahimi Mosque crime have proved anything, they prove that the peace process is facing real dangers that no one will be able to control in the absence of certain essential conditions. The first condition is that the parties concerned, especially Israel, prove with practical deeds that this process is not being used for maneuvers or compromises over firm principles. One of these principles is that there must be security for both the Arab Palestinian and Israeli sides. This means that Israel should not place the issue of its own security above all other considerations, especially the security of the Palestinians and their legitimate human and political rights.

The second condition is that all parties should scrupulously adhere to all the agreements they reach, especially on the timetables of these agreements. As events and developments have proved, it is indisputable that Israel's non-adherence to the timetables of the Declaration of Principles and the Gaza-Jericho Agreement has given the enemies and opponents of peace a chance to try to scuttle the peace process.

The third condition is that all international regional and international circumstances dictate the need to speed up the peace process.

We say this in the light of the announcement early today that the Palestinian and Israeli sides have reached an agreement on the security arrangements in Hebron. The details of this agreement will be announced later. The negotiations will then directly move to the current basis in the way he talks. Sources close to the talks have stated that Egyptian diplomacy has played a key role in helping the two sides to reach an agreement on the security arrangements in Hebron. These sources have stated that the focal point of these arrangements is the two sides' agreement on a strong international presence after a prolonged Israel hesitation in accepting it.

A major issue in during the phase of Palestinian self-rule, lasting until agreement is reached on the final status of the occupied territories, should now be addressed—that is, mutual security in these territories. Events since the al-Ibrahim Mosque crime prove, as they have since 1967, that it is impossible for Israel to remain solely responsible for security in these occupied territories. The legacy of enmity and hatred between the Palestinians and Israelis, especially the extremist Israelis, is heavy. Events and developments indicate in no uncertain terms that the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories are illegal and a grave mistake from the practical point of

view. Those who have agreed to settle among the Palestinians in areas of high population density are mostly ultra-extremists and adventurists. The repressive practices of the occupation forces prove that these forces cannot get rid of their hatred and fanaticism toward the Palestinians.

Therefore, the strong international presence in Hebron must extend to the remaining occupied territories, including Jerusalem, so that the final peace agreement can provide for the disengagement of the two sides. In any case, it is somewhat reassuring that the peace process has so far been proceeding on a correct course despite the substantial obstacles and difficulties facing it.

Israel Not To Participate in Cairo Fair

NC0104072294 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] The government has backed down on its decision to allow Israel to participate in the Cairo International Fair scheduled to open on 9 April because of the overwhelming anger that swept through Egypt after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron.

Engineer Hamid 'Atwah, director of the fair authority, said Israel will not participate in the fair through its own pavilion or through the U.S. pavilion. Israel has not participated in the fair since 1986, following the attack that the "Egypt's Revolution" organization launched on the Israeli pavilion in 1985.

Two weeks ago AL-'ARABI quoted diplomatic sources, as well as fair sources, as saying that the government was inclined to allow Israel to participate in the fair by allocating space for it in the U.S. pavilion.

Egyptian-German Military Talks Open in Cairo

NC2803204694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—A round of Egyptian-German military talks was held today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces; and Klaus Naumann, Chief of Staff of the German Armed Forces, who is currently visiting Cairo.

The session was attended by senior Armed Forces commanders from both countries. At the beginning of the session, Lt. Gen. Halabi made a speech stressing that it is high time, now that we are at the doorstep of the 21st century, to work together for the good and safety of our peoples and to deepen the concept of an overall security for all mankind, so that the next century may be one of security and stability for all the world.

Lt. Gen. Halabi added: We look forward to a world marked by amity, accord, wellbeing, and common action for the coming generations, which we do not want to suffer from the wars that our generations have gone through. We also call for a comprehensive disarmament

and a ban on nuclear, biological, and chemical tests so that humanity may stay free of any threat to its security and well-being, he added.

Lt. Gen. Halabi noted that Egypt took it upon itself to promote peace in the Arab region after it had chosen a clear path. He noted that all parties must have equal faith in the need to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in our region to achieve a bright future and security for the region's peoples. He hoped that today's talks will lead to fruitful results as far as joint action is concerned to preserve security and stability in the region as well as in Europe. He added: Egypt's participation in the European security conference in Rome a few months ago was an indication of the role we could play in this regard.

The talks dealt with all aspects of military cooperation between Egypt and German and ways of developing them.

Sudan Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

Views Meeting With Musa

NC2803150494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih held a news conference today in which he described his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa as friendly. He added that they agreed to work together to straighten out bilateral relations. He noted that Minister Musa expressed readiness to meet him in Khartoum. They will agree upon a date later. He said the problem of Hala'ib can be solved through negotiations between the two countries, not through the media. He stressed that Sudan would allow nothing that would harm Egypt's security.

Abu-Salih pointed out that Sudan held talks with the rebels in the south to find a solution to the problem, adding that Sudan cannot agree to the right of self-determination for the south. He noted that the Arab states' position on the south is that they are against any attempt to separate it from the north and that they support Sudan's unity and territorial integrity.

The Sudanese foreign minister pointed out that resolving the inter-Arab differences requires courage, a strong will, and a mechanism. The Arab League secretary general, he added, proposed a mechanism for resolving these differences and restoring true Arab solidarity. He noted that Sudan wants its relations with all the Arab countries to be normal, so that solidarity can be restored, differences eliminated, and things restored to normal.

Willing To Resume Talks on Hala'ib

PM2903152694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Salih: There Is Sectarian Dissimilarity Between Sudan and Iran"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih has announced that his country will agree to resume the Egyptian-Sudanese talks on the disputed Hala'ib triangle in Khartoum in accordance with what was agreed with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa last July.

He said in a press conference held in the foreign correspondents association in Cairo yesterday that his country's agreement to hold talks on the Hala'ib triangle represents a kind of concession. He said: "I pledged to safeguard Sudan's sovereignty over its territory."

He added: "Hala'ib is Sudanese." He said that Egypt's decision to establish a new electoral constituency there is tantamount to an Egyptian confirmation that it has never belonged to Egypt before. He described his country's decision to appoint a governor for Hala'ib as an internal matter within the framework of its sovereignty over its territory.

He said: "The governor will go there to assume the duties of his post at whatever time he wants." He expressed Sudan's willingness to accept mediation or arbitration with regard to the triangle.

Abu-Salih urged Egyptian officials to "stop pursuing the fait accompli policy and to consider the triangle a disputed territory." He held Egypt responsible for "the delay in convening the ministerial meeting in Khartoum."

On Egypt's criticisms of Sudan for sheltering extremists, Abu-Salih renewed his invitation for an Egyptian security delegation to visit Sudan to ascertain there are no terrorist camps in Sudan. He said that "Sudan's security is linked to Egypt's security, and Sudan would not allow Egypt's security to be threatened from its territory."

He denied that Sudan has received any Egyptian lists demanding the extradition of a group of extremists who are wanted to appear before the Egyptian judiciary. He stressed that "Sudan has not received any lists." He expressed "Sudan's willingness to bolster security cooperation between the two countries."

With regard to Sudan's relationship with Iran, he described this relationship as "less than normal." He pointed out that "Sudan is Sunni...and Iran is Shiite, and there is a difference between the two sects."

He added: "Sudan is entitled to establish relations with any state without interference from anyone." He said that "any talk about this relationship is interference in Sudanese internal affairs—which we reject." He strongly denied the presence in Sudan of any forces from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. He said: "Anyone who has such evidence should submit it."

Regarding the presence of [Saudi businessman] Usamah Bin-Ladin [in Sudan] and his support for fundamentalist extremists, he said: "Usamah Bin-Ladin lives in Sudan normally and is engaged in construction work on the most vital road in Sudan, that is the Khartoum-'Atbarah

road. About 170 km of this road have been completed. He has no activities other than his trade businesses."

Abu-Salih said: "Madeleine Albright, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, will visit Sudan the day after tomorrow, Thursday, in the framework of the Sudanese-U.S. talks. We are waiting for the message which she will carry from U.S. President Bill Clinton to Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir." He expects the message to deal with the Sudanese peace talks held in Nairobi recently.

He added that Sudan has indictment evidence against states he did not name and Israel, "supported with documents showing the types of weapons seized from southerners during the fighting, but we prefer not to reveal this evidence at present." [passage omitted]

Column: U.S. Provoking DPRK Crisis To Aid Israel

NC3103154294 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Mar 94
p 8

["Closeup" Column By Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "We and the Korean Crisis"]

[Text] For one reason or another, the United States chose this particular time—after 20 years—to create a severe crisis with North Korea because of unconfirmed "possibilities," lacking in substantiated proof, that North Korea is producing or is on the verge of producing nuclear weapons. This crisis, which escalates and then abates for reasons that are incomprehensible to us, seems to be remote from our area and to have nothing to do with us. As a matter of fact, it is linked to U.S. policies that are becoming clearer and more determined. These policies are generally aimed at preventing proliferation of nuclear arms in various parts of the world on the one hand and at completely controlling arms shipments to the Middle East on the other—naturally, this is to guarantee Israel's continued superiority.

North Korea is not an unlikely source of certain types of weapons for some Arab countries. There are U.S., European, and Russian agreements to "control" arms shipments to the Middle East, but these agreements are subject to the mood in the United States. The United States violated these agreements with the sale of modern military aircraft that it decided to offer to Israel recently as a down payment for starting the peace talks.

Twenty years ago, there were doubts that North Korea had a nuclear plan that might be used to produce weapons. But North Korea signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty in 1985 and it allowed the IAEA to inspect its installations in 1991. Amid the continuing tense relations between North and South Korea, the North Korean Government decided last June not to allow the IAEA inspectors to check its installations and threatened to withdraw from the Nonproliferation Treaty if the U.S. and South Korean pressure continues.

North Korea has played on the nerves of the United States and South Korea: It finally allowed the IAEA inspectors to check some installations but then suddenly prevented them from completing their mission. The United States tried to use this crisis to gain access to the center of the closed society in North Korea, but it failed. The crisis was referred to the Security Council. The United States also tried to use the PRC and Japan to pressure North Korea, but the PRC stated that this crisis must be resolved peacefully without threats.

The United States so far has not one single confirmed bit of evidence that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons. North Korea probably is playing this card for its own purposes in the conflict with South Korea. The U.S. stance seems strange and incomprehensible. It leaves in Israel nuclear weapons the existence of which have been proven beyond a shadow of doubt and searches for nuclear "ghosts" in North Korea. The whole game is intended to serve Israel.

Columnist Notes Clinton's Position on Jerusalem

NC3103144194 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Mar 94 p 2

[From the "Comment" Column by Husayn 'Abd-al-Wahid: "Clinton's Promises"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's position on the issue of Jerusalem has become some sort of a puzzle. In the past few days, statements by Clinton and officials in his Administration about the issue have been strangely and suspiciously contradictory. When the U.S. President met with leaders of the "Zionist lobby" in the United States he emphasized to them his support for making Jerusalem the unified capital of Israel. A day later, the U.S. State Department issued a statement stressing that there is no change in Washington's position regarding Jerusalem! A few days later, Jewish sources once again quoted President Clinton as backing Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel.

Later, news agencies quoted him as affirming that the status of Jerusalem must be determined through Arab-Israeli negotiations. The Arabs understood this to mean Clinton's promise to them not to recognize the legitimacy of the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem.

In general, the U.S. comments, which are designed to satisfy the Arabs, were marked by a great deal of deliberate ambiguity. Former U.S. President George Bush was once asked his opinion on declaring Jerusalem the capital of Israel. His specific and firm answer was that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab territories and that its final status, like that of the other Arab cities and villages that Israel occupied in 1967, will be determined by the peace talks.

However, the current U.S. Administration confines itself to emphasizing that its "position on Jerusalem has not changed." The confusing thing about this phrase is that the position of the Democratic Party and its presidential

candidate in the recent elections, Bill Clinton, recognized Jerusalem, both East and West, as the capital of Israel and even sought to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Zionists viewed this position as a promise no less important or significant than the infamous "Balfour Declaration."

Thus, the "no-change in the U.S. position on Jerusalem" means one of two things: First, that Clinton meant that he adheres to his position announced during his election campaign, namely to recognize the legitimacy of the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem; or second, that he meant they continue to adhere to the position of the preceding U.S. administrations, which viewed Jerusalem as an occupied Arab territory.

I believe that this duality in meanings is intentional and deliberate, acting upon the foxy Kissinger's theory that "modern politics should be hard to understand." We apologize to Mr. Kissinger, but we are nevertheless trying to understand. Unfortunately, our attempt to do so leads us to believe that the whole thing is nothing but a trial balloon by Washington to see what the Arab and Islamic reactions would be if the U.S. Embassy were to be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Thus, the Arabs must counter this U.S. ambiguity with full clarity and firmness before it is too late.

Article Questions U.S. Role as Partner

NC3103170194 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Mar 94 p 9

[Article by Ihsan Bakr: "Questions About the Role of Full Partner"]

[Text] It is everybody's expectation, including the pessimists, that the parties to the Middle East conflict are about to return to the bilateral negotiations, not consequent to a pause for consultations with their governments or for more study and examination, but in the wake of the overwhelming popular anger that swept the Arab world in the wake of the massacre of worshipers inside the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

The aftermath of this massacre continues to pose big question marks about the usefulness of the negotiations themselves considering the U.S. Administration's decisive and firm bias toward Israel and the Rabin government's total refusal to comply with the international resolutions.

After three weeks of consultations, pressures, and postponements, the Security Council condemned the ugly massacre after the martyrs' blood had cooled, the martyrs' and injured people's blood had dried, a lethal blow had been dealt to the peace efforts, and acts of violence and counter-violence had engulfed the occupied Arab territories. The resolution condemning the massacre was clear and unanimous but has left two major issues unresolved.

Yes. The resolution underlined the need to provide protection for Palestinian citizens inside the occupied territories. But it has not told us how this protection will be provided and who will be responsible for it. That was an intentional lapse to negate the essence of the international resolution, especially as Israel has declared that it refuses to let UN forces do the protecting. But it appears that the Security Council resolutions are always deficient whenever they concern an Arab issue. The Council was asked to take a clear and frank stand on the issue of protecting the Palestinian citizens because it is difficult to restore calm to the occupied territories while there are armed criminal settlers with their fingers always pressing the trigger to kill innocent people.

The resolution, which took a long time to formulate, was adopted after the United States expressed reservations over the clause dealing with Jerusalem because Washington does not recognize Jerusalem as part of the occupied Arab territories, and it even appears that it does not admit that there is such a thing as occupied territories. President Clinton underlined this stance twice, once during the presidential elections when, as the Democratic candidate, he declared that Jerusalem will be Israel's capital. The second time was a few days ago when he stressed during a meeting with the leaders of the American-Israeli Political Action Committee that the United States regards unified Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel.

The U.S. Embassy in Cairo has issued a clarification of President Clinton's statements, and the U.S. State Department—after a silence that lasted more than a week—has said that there is no change in the U.S. stand on the Jerusalem issue. But the U.S. reservations in the Security Council over the clause on Jerusalem casts doubts and suspicions on the real U.S. stand on this issue, an issue that is close to the heart of all Arabs and Muslims.

The Security Council issued its resolution of condemnation and then sat back! It appears that this Council issues two types of resolutions: ones that are liable to be implemented and applied—such as the cases of Iraq and Libya—and other resolutions that cannot be implemented, especially if they deal with Israel and Arab rights.

Is it not strange that at a time when Israel is asking the Arabs to negotiate, achieve peace, and establish and normalize relations, and is demanding an end to the economic boycott and resumption of trade, it is also practicing organized terrorism against the Palestinians and building up its military arsenal?

The United States has raised a major hue and cry against Libya and imposed a comprehensive international embargo against it merely on the suspicion that two Libyans might have been involved in bombing an American plane over Lockerbie in Scotland. It is demanding that the two suspects be extradited to stand trial. And in

its bizarre arrogance, the United States insists on maintaining the full international embargo on Iraq, plunging the Iraqi people into isolation, hunger, and medicine shortages; and it is leading a broad international campaign to remove Iraq's nuclear weapons and all other weapons.

While the United States is taking all these measures against Arab peoples, it does absolutely nothing about Israeli acts against the defenseless Palestinian people, and it observes the silence of the dead over Israel's possession of more than 200 nuclear bombs that threaten all Arab peoples of the region. The United States is doing nothing to Israel despite its refusal to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty!

This being the fact, we have a right to ask about the true U.S. role in the region and about U.S. objectives in the peace process. Is the United States seeking peace for Israel without returning the Arab land to its rightful owners?

The United States is telling everybody that it is a sponsor of the peace process, and it says it is a full partner. Indeed, it is preventing any other international party from intervening in the process, on the pretext that it is the "only mediator" that can intervene in the crisis. Even Russia, the other cosponsor of the peace process that was launched in Madrid, is not allowed to go beyond a decorative role. Having all these broad powers, when the United States is pushed into a position where it must make a difficult decision it hurriedly announces that it will not intervene in the negotiations, leaving the two sides, the Palestinians and the Israelis, face to face!

The political situation in the occupied territories threatens dire consequences due to this intentional disregard of Arab rights, total bias toward Israel, and insistence that the ball is in the Palestinian negotiators' court, portraying them as the obstacle to returning to the negotiating table.

It is Yasir 'Arafat's right to make inquiries, be skeptical, and demand genuine guarantees of protection for his people. He has a right to receive specific answers about the role of settlers and why the settlements have been planted in the middle of the Palestinian masses. 'Arafat's primary duty is to not be rushed, to be careful, and obtain all international guarantees. Their constant pressure on the PLO leadership to resume the negotiations unconditionally only shows that the United States and Israel want 'Arafat to accept unconditional surrender.

The United States is gravely deceiving itself and the whole Arab nation if it believes that this policy will lead to peace. The Palestinian people, together with all Arab peoples, will not accept the desecration of Arab land and Arab sanctities in return for a false peace. The peace that Yasir 'Arafat aims at and all the Arabs demand is based on the return of the land and the end of occupation.

Revision of Constitution, Election Laws Urged

NC3003152394 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic
26 Mar 94 p 20

["Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] If I were a member of a national dialogue committee I would call for the president to be elected directly by the entire nation, not by the People's Assembly acting on behalf of the people. And, I would demand that presidential elections be contested by many candidates, not one.

I would also call for a new constitution. The current Constitution is a vestige of a totalitarian regime that amassed power in the hands of one man. I would demand that the people become the source of all power. The parliament should have the right to pass a vote of no-confidence against the cabinet or any minister, as was the case in parliaments before the revolution. The parliament should also be able to amend the budget and overrule allocations that it judges to be inappropriate, a privilege that all parliaments, except ours, have.

I would demand that the Consultative Council be promoted from a Parent-Teacher-Association-style forum into a full-fledged senate with the power to bring down the cabinet.

Above all, I would demand the abolition of the disreputable [emergency] laws and the post of the socialist prosecutor [created by late President Anwar al-Sadat to investigate and try fraud and corruption cases. Detractors of this post believe such cases should be handled by ordinary law courts]. Civilian defendants should be tried at civilian courts, not at emergency or state security courts. Ordinary, not extraordinary, laws should be the law of the land.

I would call for the Shaykh al-Azhar to be elected by senior ulema. The posts of governor, town mayor, and village head should be filled through direct elections.

I would call for the abolition of the press authority [sultat] law, dubbed the press salad [salatat] law. Every citizen should have the right to issue a paper, even if only one reader were to read it.

Ministers and their wives and children should not be allowed to run their own businesses or accept gifts valued at more than 100 pounds [\$30]. Ministers should hand over the gifts they receive to a state-owned museum.

Parliamentary deputies should not combine their parliamentary duties with a government job. How can a deputy criticize a minister if the latter is his boss and as such has the power to promote or demote him?

We want a constitution for the 21st century. Despotic constitutions do not suit free people.

Islamic Group Urges Austria Not To Honor Rushdie

NC3103135994 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Mar 94
p 1

[Text] The Islamic Council for Call and Relief yesterday denounced the Austrian government's intention to grant its European Literature Prize to Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie for his book *The Satanic Verses*.

In a statement it issued, the Council said that the panel of judges' choice of *The Satanic Verses* as an example of contemporary European literature is a shock that arouses feelings and shows a clear bias and vile prejudice on the part of the atheists and apostates. It appealed to the Austrian Government to reject the panel's choice.

The Austrian Ministry of Education and Arts has proposed that the prize be not awarded publicly, while Arts Minister Rudolf Scholten refused to hand it over in secret and postponed the award ceremony.

Libya**Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks at Bani Walid 29 Mar**

LD3003183094 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi in Bani Walid on 29 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, the rumors of colonialism and appendices of colonialism, and the attempts of colonialism are smashed today on the steadfast and proud mountains of Wadi Dinar, on the mountains of Bani Walid just as they were in the Italian era, brothers. Today, brothers, we challenge the enemies from Wadi Dinar in Bani Walid, the Wadi where the blood of martyrs had flowed, the martyrs of Bani Walid who fought the Italian army which was stronger in number and equipment and material. The free voice, the voice of defiance rises from Bani Walid, from Wadi Dinar. Our voice rises, brothers, in defiance of the agents, the disreputable American intelligence, and we challenge America with its might. We are stronger than it because we have the right to our land and we have the right to live freely, proudly, under the sun and on the land of our fathers and ancestors, which was irrigated by their blood, brothers.

Brothers, from this sacred valley, in which the blood of your martyr fathers and grandfathers of Bani Walid flowed, our voice rises with defiance, and we announce the destruction of the conspiracies of America, its hirelings, its intelligence service, its rumors, and its [word indistinct].

Brothers, we are destroying their rumors as we have destroyed their armies in this valley.

Brothers, sons of Bani Walid, grandsons of the martyr (?Gulbar) hero of Afya battle, sons of Bani Walid,

grandsons of the martyr al-Sadiq (?Buli), hero of (?Tagir-bit) battle, you must remain faithful to the blood that flowed in Dinar valley to defend the freedom of Libya, to defend Pan-Arabism and to defend Islam, the religion of Pan-Arabism. You must remain faithful to the blood that flowed in [words indistinct] against Turkish colonialism.

[passage omitted] Brothers, today Bani Walid's role has come to line up in the preparation battle, in the defiant battle against the international encroachment and haughtiness (?practised) by America and its allies. In this Wadi we did not fear Italy's legions and we smashed Italy's arrogance in Wadi Dinar. [passage omitted]

Now, we declare that, once again, we are ready for confrontation and defiance in Wadi Dinar, in Zaytouna, and everywhere in our land, to face up to a new confrontation against new colonialism. We are the sons, the grandsons of those people whose blood flowed in this Wadi. Brothers, we will be faithful to this blood.

Today, brothers, Bani Walid's voice is raised in the defiant battle as long as colonialism points its rifles against the chest of each son of our people, and as long as colonialism targets the freedom of every area of this homeland. Wirfallah [a tribe, members of which were accused of spying] cannot but line up in the battle of glory, pride, defiance, and independence. It is a battle of independence, a battle of awakening of the Arab nation from the Ocean to the Gulf.

Your shouts at Wadi Dinar and Bani Walid will not go unheard and in vain; today the whole Arab nation, from the Atlantic to the Gulf, is hearing your shouts. These shouts represent a boost for the Palestinian militants and thousands of Palestinians kept inside the prisons of the Israeli forces of occupation. Your shouts raise the morale of Lebanese fighters, fighters of the Somali people, and all militants of the Arab nation to liberate the occupied territories that stretch from Ceuta and Melilla to the usurped Palestine. Brothers, this voice emanating from Wadi Dinar and Bani Walid is being heard by the whole Arab nation.

From this position, from the sacred Wadi Dinar, we invite Warfalah to take a leading role and mobilize itself for confrontation, as we always expect it to do. It should lead the confrontation to defend the dignity, honor, and the whole nation. Brothers, we will never give up, and history will never be able to record that we have abdicated our duties. We are the sons of the district [word indistinct], the sons of the martyrs and heroes. History will never be able to write that we have not responded to the call for the preparation for confrontation.

Bani Walid will never miss the opportunity and will answer the call of the holy war, the call for the confrontation against the United States and the allies of the United States. Cursed are those agents: the traitors, the cowards, those who gave up and bowed, those who sold their country to others. Cursed are the pitiful cowards. Glory and honor for these revolutionaries, these brave

people, the sons of Bani Walid who march today in Wadi Dinar to announce their collective pledge. Bani Walid is a fortress of defiance, Bani Walid is a fortress of steadfastness, Bani Walid is a fortress of confrontation. The struggle continues, and victory is inevitable, brothers. Forward we march until the sun of liberty shines on the whole Arab world, from the Atlantic to the Gulf. Forward we go and may the struggle continue.

Salvation Front Meeting Discusses Split

PM2803162994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
28 Mar 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Salvation Front Discusses Convening Its National Assembly, Split"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] has said that its permanent office held its third meeting in the current session 19 and 20 March, and that members from the Front's leadership committee participated in the meeting.

A statement issued by the front said that the office received "a message from the officers who participated in the last October uprising and managed to escape arrest." It pointed out that they stressed their loyalty to the front and its aims.

The statement added that "the permanent office discussed developments concerning the issue of those who split from the front. The office expressed its utmost regret over the haste of the brothers concerned in making such a decision and their failure to wait for the convening of the extraordinary national assembly meeting agreed by all parties at the permanent office's last meeting. At the same time the office would like to place on record for these brothers its thanks and gratitude for the efforts and sacrifices they have made in the service of the Libyan national cause with their fellow front members throughout these years (...). The office highly valued the way in which the leadership committee has handled this issue. The office also blessed the selection of Colonel Salih Muhammad al-Habbuni, member of the permanent office, as commander in chief of the Libyan National Army, the NFSL's armed forces, and Staff Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah Khalid al-Shaykhi as deputy commander in chief, wishing them both success in the new mission."

It went on: "The permanent office listened to the leadership committee's report on the radio retransmission of Voice of the Libyan People, Voice of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya.

"The office examined the report of the committee assigned to prepare for the national assembly meeting. It completed the drawing up of a program of action for the plan to convene the national assembly next summer, God willing. It made a number of organizational decisions and recommendations to redouble efforts to tackle

developments and events on the struggle scene and to lead the front to the achievement of national struggle aims."

The NFSL issued another statement in which it said that its leadership committee held a routine meeting under Dr. Muhammad al-Muqariyf, the front's secretary general, at which it studied a number of questions concerning the general conditions of the national issue in the light of local, regional, and international changes. It also viewed the front's organizational conditions and the program of action. In addition to members of the leadership committee and the permanent office the meeting was attended by Col. al-Habbuni and Lt. Col. al-Shaykhi.

The statement pointed out that the committee devoted special interest to the decision to convene the national assembly for an extraordinary meeting. It stressed the importance of exerting efforts, making good preparations, and enabling all members of the front to contribute effectively to the preparatory work and select their representatives to the assembly. The committee made a number of decisions in this connection and urged all its members to contribute effectively to the work of the specialized committees formed by the permanent office.

'Clarification' Issued on Oppositions' London Meeting

PM2803105694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
26 Mar 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Clarification on Libyan Opposition's London Meeting"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Clarifying a report published by AL-HAYAH last Wednesday on Libyan oppositionists' London meeting, Prince Muhammad al-Hasan al-Rida al-Sanusi has said:

1. We renew our respect for all Libyan opposition figures and groups and wish them success in ridding the country of its predicament. We also renew our willingness and desire to meeting with any figure or group to exchange views on the Libyan problem. We stress that we do not consider ourselves an opposition faction or organization. We belong to everyone, in accordance with the traditions of our al-Sanusi family, which has never sided with one group against another.

2. With regard to the meeting held in the London house of a figure known for his generosity and good reputation, we clarify that it was not a political meeting. It was an invitation to a lunch which witnessed general and unspecific discussions about Libyan issues, just like any other discussions one would expect at such meetings. No memorandum was written, nor were signatures on any initiative collected.

3. We have been surprised by what was published and circulated by Libyan brothers. We had organized the issues raised at the meeting. We would like to stress that

we are not against any opportunity to discuss current political affairs, but we prefer that there be clear prior organization for the sake of the unity of all the nation's sons.

4. We do not wish to be a means for any plan or a tool for any quarter seeking to achieve personal or factional interests. And we assure everyone that we will respect the will of every person and quarter and will not interfere in the Libyan opposition's affairs.

JANA Calls U.S. Policy on al-'Aqabah 'Piracy'

LD2903175994 Tripoli JANA in English 1731 GMT
29 Mar 94

[Text] Washington, al-Rabia'a 29 [29 March], Jamahiriya News Agency—The American government said it is reviewing the measures for the interception of ships heading towards al-'Aqabah port.

This step comes within the policy of piracy practiced on a large scale by the United States.

PLO Official Applauds Libya on Pan-Arab Issues

LD2903180794 Tripoli JANA in English 1714 GMT
29 Mar 94

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Rabia'a [March] 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Abu-Musa [Colonel Sa'id Muragha], one of the leaders in the Palestinian national alliance applauded the Great Jamahiriya's unwavering and brave stance vis a vis pan Arab issues—particularly those concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict.

in an interview with today's issue of the AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper, Abu-Musa said that their presence in the Great Jamahiriya was due to their being a part of the process of struggle led by the Great Jamahiriya, embodied in the leadership of Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi. He said "our continuing contact with the Libyan leadership comes as part of the continuing dialogue, discussion and joint action in the service of essential pan Arab issues, most prominently, the Palestinian cause [no closing quote as received]. He said that the Great Jamahiriya's stance was an historical where we devote ourselves in our conflict with the occupiers of this part of the Arab world [sentence as received].

Abu-Musa said that the so-called Gaza-Jericho Accords consolidated the Israeli occupation of occupied Palestine and are a Western conspiracy directed against the Arab world.

He said that the Israelis had proposed a withdrawal from Gaza for years because they wanted to get rid of Gaza. They even asked Egypt to take Gaza because the Israelis wanted to get rid of it, a piece of land containing a powder keg of revolution which has caused great consternation for the Zionist entity. "It is impossible for us to consider Gaza as separate from the entire struggle. Gaza-Jericho is the result of a complete process of political activity which we can call an American conspiracy aimed at the Arab nation. [no closing quotation marks as received]

United Arab Emirates

Abu Dhabi Denies Reports of Visit by PLO's Qaddumi

PM3003134694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
30 Mar 94 p 5

[Report by Shafiq al-Asadi: "Abu Dhabi Denies Qaddumi Made Visit"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Diplomatic sources in Abu Dhabi have denied that PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi paid an official visit to Abu Dhabi and held talks with officials there on the situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian issue. The sources said they had no knowledge of such a visit.

Well-informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that Qaddumi stopped over on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning at Dubai international airport en route from Cairo to the Far East to visit a number of states there.

They added that Qaddumi, who stopped over at Dubai airport for about an hour, made some telephone calls to some Palestinian embassy officials in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The sources expect Qaddumi to stop over at Dubai airport when he returns from east Asia. The sources stressed they had no knowledge of the possibility of his making an official visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] soon.

Qaddumi's stopover at Dubai airport does not carry any political indications, as President Yasir 'Arafat too stopped over at Abu Dhabi international airport last year while en route from Jakarta and Turkey.

Observers point out that official contacts between Abu Dhabi and the PLO were limited to the contacts with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), who visited it on two occasions, the more recent of which was after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement in Washington on 13 September. During this visit he met with senior UAE officials, first and foremost Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the head of state.

Yemen

Salih Denies Reports of Illegal Weapons Importation

JN0104070294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, met yesterday evening with the brother members of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee. The meeting addressed several issues on the local scene, as well as the efforts being made

by the committee to end the political crisis. The conferees also reviewed the decisions reached by the committee during its recent meetings in the commercial and economic capital, Aden. These decisions aim at implementing the accord document, activating Constitutional agencies, enhancing trust between political leaders, and supporting efforts to lead Yemen to a safe haven. The purpose of this is to safeguard Yemeni unity and democracy and build a modern Yemeni state.

During the meeting, the brother chairman of the Presidential Council welcomed the members of the committee and blessed the committee's decisions. He said: We bless you and highly appreciate the committee's efforts that resulted in the accord document. This shows concern on the part of everybody. The homeland is, after all, for everybody and it is the duty of every patriotic and well-meaning individual to seek an end to the crisis that has plagued our people for more than seven months.

Addressing the dialogue committee, the brother chairman said: We do not want you to be biased toward this or that party. We want you to favor the homeland and to champion it wisely and adroitly. The interests of the homeland should be placed above all other considerations. The political forces and all the sons of the homeland are responsible for ridding the homeland of the ongoing developments and schemes to foil the homeland's unity. These schemes cannot succeed unless there are domestic tools to implement them and unless the doors are open to them. We should close all doors and not allow the fragmentation of national unity, whatever the differences. We should have recourse to dialogue and not infringe on constant national principles and not harm our unity. It is better for us to sit at the negotiating table right from the very beginning to find solutions to our problems, instead of resorting to armed struggle and violence and later sitting at the negotiating table, having shed blood and destroyed the homeland.

The brother chairman stressed the need for the dialogue committee to monitor the official media and make sure they abide by the committee's decisions and end the media campaigns. He said the Dialogue Committee should make a decision to assume direct supervision, through work teams, over all airports and seaports in Aden, Sanaa, Hadhramaut, al-Hudaydah, Ta'izz, and other Yemeni ports to make sure no weapons or military equipment and hardware are imported from abroad, and to stop military escalation.

The brother chairman reiterated the commitment of the General People's Congress [GPC] to any decision adopted in this regard. He also denied press reports that Yemen has imported internationally banned weapons. He expressed extreme regret over hearing such unfounded rumors. He said: Whatever the political differences between the political organizations, we should not allow this to reach the level of harming Yemen and its international reputation. Repeating such false rumors does not harm just one political side alone; it harms all the Yemeni people and distorts their image worldwide.

Consequently, it will be difficult to remove such a distorted image in the short run. Everybody should enjoy national responsibility toward such irresponsible practices. We should enhance mutual trust. The Dialogue Committee should also intensify its efforts so the homeland can recover and trust can be restored. This will

enable everybody to devote their efforts to promoting a safe, stable homeland enjoying unity and democracy.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council and GPC assistant secretary general.

Foreign Minister Urges Lifting Embargo

JN0104115994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has said Iraq has fulfilled its international obligations, particularly Resolution 687, which stipulates, in return, that the Security Council should immediately lift the Iraq embargo in line with Paragraph 22.

In an interview with Egyptian television screened last night, al-Sahhaf said it is the right of the Iraqi people and government, in line with international law, to take measures that keep them alive and ensures their future if pressure on the Security Council persists in order to prevent the lifting of the embargo.

He said lifting the Iraq embargo is necessary and is stipulated by Resolution 687, Paragraph 22, and that any talk to the contrary is obvious manipulation of the resolutions and their contents.

Regarding the allegations of the Kuwaiti regime about missing persons, the foreign minister said Iraq had cooperated with three envoys sent by the Arab League, the Security Council, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and that Iraq holds no Kuwaiti people at all.

Assembly Speaker on French Normalization, Embargo

JN0104113994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—[National Assembly Speaker] Sa'di Mahdi Salih has reasserted his satisfaction with the outcome of his meeting with the president of the French National Assembly in Paris early this week. He said the meeting was an advanced step down the road of normalizing relations between Iraq and France.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH published today, Salih said the meeting revealed a serious French desire and concern on the part of the French Government to normalize relations with Iraq and to move on toward a new stage in which France will greatly contribute, through the Security Council, toward lifting the Iraq embargo.

He said the atmosphere that prevailed during the meetings of the Interparliamentary Union, concluded recently in the French capital, highlighted a noticeable change in the international arena and a frank call for lifting the Iraq embargo, especially the oil embargo.

Commenting on the agreement of the Arab sides to a Moroccan proposal to hold an ordinary session for the Arab Parliamentary Union to clear the Arab atmosphere, Salih said: Definitely, the question of the Iraq

embargo will command the attention of everybody, because the removal of its causes opens the door for a unified Arab position.

On a visit by a Jordanian parliament delegation to Iraq tomorrow, Sa'di Mahdi Salih said the delegation, led by 'Abd Musa al-Nahar, deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, will hold talks with several officials within the context of brotherly relations between the two countries. The delegation will also attend part of the new session of the Iraqi National Assembly.

Ba'th Official Leaves for Moscow Conference

JN3103104394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, left Baghdad en route to Moscow today at the head of an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation to attend meetings of the conference of the Russian Liberal Democrat Party [LDP] that is due to convene there next week.

In a statement to INA, 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur said that the party delegation will hold talks with Russian parties and political forces to promote ties between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and these parties and forces. The party delegation will also explain to these Russian parties and forces the implications and dangers of the unfair anti-Iraq embargo that continues due to the wishes of the United States and Zionism, although Iraq has fulfilled its commitments per relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 687.

'Abd-al-Ghafur added that the improved positions of a few UN Security Council permanent members, including Russia, demonstrate the need to implement Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687, and immediately lift the unfair embargo clamped on Iraq.

Supreme Assembly Head on Anti-Saddam Struggle

PM3003154394 London AL-NABA in Arabic 30 Mar 94 p 7

[Interview with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, in Tehran by Zuhayr Qusaybati in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Qusaybati] Some opposition parties believe that your staying in Iran and failure to move to northern Iraq is obstructing the effort to unify the opposition.

[Al-Hakim] My staying in Iran is natural, as it (Iran) was and continue to be a base for jihad and political action against the regime. And it provides opportunities for contacts inside and abroad, whether within the region or with the international community.

It also has major scientific seminaries like the Qom seminary—which provide opportunities for moves at all levels in line, of course, with all our political and cultural moves. And I do not believe that my moving to northern Iraq would provide a new opportunity for the opposition, especially as I have always believed it is necessary for me personally to remain outside the unified opposition establishments. However, I believe in the opposition's unity. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] Is your moving to northern Iraq on the cards?

[Al-Hakim] My moving to north Iraq is on the cards and natural. I also believe that it would provide a better opportunity to serve the aim of getting rid of the criminal regime and achieving justice, brotherhood, and unity in Iraq. But I do not believe that there is a need for it at the moment, especially as general harmony and cooperation exist with the Kurdish brothers, may God bestow success on them, and also with the other opposition parties operating in Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Qusaybati] Do you believe the opposition can still be unified? And what about your reservations about the Salah al-Din conference?

[Al-Hakim] I believe that unifying the opposition in the general sense is possible. And some steps have been achieved, as a group of the major forces is cooperating this connection. And efforts are still continuing to achieve the other steps. What is easy to achieve should not be abandoned because of what is difficult to achieve, as the Islamic jurisprudence rule says.

As for the reservations announced by the Islamic forces about the Salah al-Din conference, this institution has responded to some of them and efforts are being made to surmount the others. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] Some people accuse you of adhering to Iranian policy and confirming things with it.

[Al-Hakim] That is a completely false accusation. It is a method used by the enemies in the psychological war to achieve political aims. This is in the knowledge that we respect the views of the brother believers in Iran and also respect Iran's policy. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] You are calling for a change of regime, but the opposition is accused of ineffectiveness and lack of influence inside the country.

[Al-Hakim] The Iraqi position, in particular the Islamic opposition, has turned from an opposition of political groups and forces into an opposition of a people fighting for the sake of salvation. The best proof of this is the uprising of 15 Sha'ban 1411 H (March 1991) and the Iraqi people's resistance and jihad operations, which are still continuing despite the regime's numerous attempts to destroy the resistance, use of heavy and deadly weapons, and numerous and huge life-destroying schemes like draining the marshes, the economic and

military blockade, the continued large-scale sweeps in the cities, and physical liquidations and executions.

[Qusaybati] Do you believe foreign intervention is on the cards?

[Al-Hakim] I believe that the Iraqi people should carry out the salvation task, and the international community should help them to do so. Regrettably the international community still has not responded to the appeal for help. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] You demanded the establishment of a "safe area" in southern Iraq. How do you explain the West's intervention to set up a safe area in the north and its and the United Nations' disregard for your appeals vis-a-vis the south?

[Al-Hakim] I did not demand a safe area in the south. I demanded protection for all the Iraqi people against heavy weapons and annihilation operations—that is, the annihilation of people and life. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] What is the number of the men of the "Badr Corps" belonging to the "Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution" in Iran?

[Al-Hakim] It is not right to reveal such information.

[Qusaybati] Iraqi opposition sources say that Iranian sources have scattered the corps' men.

[Al-Hakim] That is untrue. At any rate, we have our own means of retaining our own military forces.

[Qusaybati] What about Tehran's attempts to normalize relations with Baghdad? Does that not worry you?

[Al-Hakim] I have said from the outset that these attempts do not worry us, because our work is associated with the Iraqi people as a whole, and the issue is too broad and deep to be harmed by these relations. This is why we see the regime more frightened than us of these relations. [sentence as published]

[Qusaybati] How do you explain President Saddam Husayn's threat to retaliate against the extension of international sanctions, given that a split has emerged in the Security Council over determining an armament inspection timetable that would help lift the oil blockade?

[Al-Hakim] Saddam is experiencing a real crisis, not only at the economic level but also at the level of the narrow and limited base on which he relies, which has begun to shake. This is in addition to the popular turmoil and his inability to control the situation except through the Army—which poses a real threat to his existence. This is why he is trying to preoccupy the Army with fabricated actions. And he could commit a crime or another foolish action for the sake of staying in power. This is why three areas are likely to be targeted: the marshlands and the north, Kuwait, or Iran... or all of them. And he has indeed begun his attack in the marshlands but has so far

failed to achieve his aims. And he has also begun to provoke Iran through some limited military operations. He has also begun to deploy troops [on the border with] the north and Iraqi Kurdistan and Kuwait. Maybe in his view Kuwait is the most important of the fronts in question. God knows.

As for the Security Council's split, it is the result of a conflict of interests. And the regime has its own means of tempting and making the interests owners' mouths water as regards the hope of having some of the debts paid. Even though the regime has not paid its previous debts. In fact it has increased the debts and failed to fulfill its promises and pledges. It has actually broken them and failed to achieve stability for the region. In fact these opportunist attitudes have resulted in unrest and serious threats.

Fresh Offensives Reported in South; Many Homeless

LD3103123994 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Gonaveh (Bushehr), March 31, IRNA—Scores of Iraqi families have been made homeless as a result of the Iraqi regime's fresh offensives on the southern marshlands, reported reliable sources here today.

According to the fresh arrivals, the people in the Iraqi marshlands especially the women and children, are suffering through shortage of foodstuffs and medicine.

The radio "Voice of Iraqi People," operating from somewhere inside Iraq, reported today that scores of refugee families in al-Basrah, Nasiriyah and al-Amarah have left their homes for safe havens, near the Iranian borders in the southeast.

The Iraqi Arabs betrayed by the U.S. and its coalition forces which incited them against Saddam Husayn and then deserted them in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war in 1991, have been subject to rigorous economic sanctions.

The Iraqi regime launches periodical attacks on the southerners and other opponents in the central and northern parts.

Syria's Khaddam Receives Kurdish Envoy

JN3103200794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] On 29 March, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received in his office in Damascus 'Ali al-Sanjari, member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party political bureau and the party's Arab Affairs official. During their meeting, they discussed the general situation in Iraq, with a particular emphasis on Kurdistan, as well as the recent Iraqi regime's threats.

Both sides expressed the desire to strengthen relations between our party and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria.

Khaddam conveyed greetings from President Hafiz al-Asad to brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani and thanked him for sending a special envoy from the party leadership to take part in a prayer meeting for the soul of deceased Basil al-Asad.

Kurdish Officials Deny Barzani Appointed Governor

PM3003133894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Mar 94 p4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Kurdish Officials Deny Appointment of Barzani as Governor of Iraqi Kurdistan"]

[Excerpt] London—An Iraqi Kurdish official has denied yesterday's reports that the Iraqi Government intended to appoint Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], as governor general of Iraqi Kurdistan. He said that this claim was "unfounded and aimed to undermine the KDP and its leader."

The Qatari News Agency [QNA], citing the Jordanian paper AL-BILAD, said yesterday that the Baghdad government would appoint Barzani as "governor general of the Kurdish autonomy region in the north of the country." The paper cited what it called "informed Arab sources" as saying that the Kurdish leader would "return to Baghdad within 10 days at the latest to settle in his country permanently."

Muhsin Dazha'i, Barzani's personal representative and member of the Executive Council of the opposition's Iraqi National Congress [INC], told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that "the report was fabricated at the instigation of the Iraqi Government and some tendentious people." He added that "its aim is to undermine the party and its leader and create confusion, suspicion, and friction among the Kurdish people, the Kurdish parties, and the Iraqi opposition forces in general."

An official of the KDP's European Bureau in London has also denied the report, describing it as "sheer lies."

Hani al-Fukayki, deputy chairman of the INC Executive Council, accused the Iraqi intelligence services of trying to "confuse the Iraqi opposition, the Arab states, and the United Nations by spreading rumors and lies such as that report." He added that "Saddam's local and regional intelligence services have made up that false report in order to harm Barzani who, along with other brothers, is leading the struggle in the homeland against Baghdad's dictatorship and despotism and for the creation of a united, federal, democratic Iraqi state." [passage omitted]

Basil al-Asad Killed by Drug Gangs in Lebanon

JN3003120594 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] Watchers of the Syrian scene and arrivals from Syria report that Basil, President Hafiz al-Asad's eldest son, met his death at the hands of drug gangsters operating in Lebanon.

According to some reliable sources, Basil was killed in Lebanon, having received threats in connection with the hush money he had been receiving from hashish growers and smugglers. He had been suspected of planning to swindle the traffickers and control the market.

The sources indicate that the news of Basil's death, officially caused by an auto crash, was broken two days after its actual date. Neither was there any picture of the the accident that could be shown on Syrian television.

Observers note that Lebanese factions, the Maronites in particular, were keen to send delegations to pay their last respects, lest any be suspected of involvement in his assassination and then bear the vengeance of Syrian intelligence services.

The observers are confident that the next few days will bear out their assessment. A tradition of the al-Nasiriyah sect calls for the deceased's face to be uncovered for a final glimpse, which was not observed in the case of Basil al-Asad.

Columnists on 'Development' in UN Blockade Stance

JN0104070394

[Editorial Report] Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic on 23, 24, 25, and 27 March 1994, and Baghdad BABIL in Arabic on 26 March 1994 publish articles by Iraqi columnists on the latest UN Security Council debate over the Iraqi blockade. All articles note a "development" in the UN Security Council stance, saying now that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations, Security Council members should honor their resolutions "despite any endeavor by the United States to continue the blockade." However, while most articles hail "the new UN stand" as a development "in Iraq's favor" and predict "great victory" soon, one columnist, while acknowledging this development, thinks Iraqis have been too euphoric, and warns local papers against playing up the "split," saying "our papers have been carried away by this game of nations."

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 March carries in its "Standpoint" column on page two a 700-word article by Mu'ayyad 'Abd-al-Zahrah entitled: "The Security Council Must Honor Its Resolutions!" The article says Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz's intensive deliberations and contacts with UN members have led to

"further international understanding of and clear sympathy with Iraq's rights and legitimate demands." Referring to the "Iraqi message of facts" which 'Aziz submitted to the Security Council, the article says: "Facing the Security Council with the facts and asking it to stand by its decision had fully exposed the situation so that it was no longer acceptable for anyone to remain silent." "The message," the article adds: "was echoed by several permanent member states, which acknowledged Iraq's positive steps toward and tangible cooperation with the UN resolutions." The article concludes: "Thus, the new change occurred as a result of Iraq's steadfastness and firm struggle as well as its people's courage and patience in adversity. The coming days portend the harvest of a great victory over the tyrant and the collapse of the unfair blockade."

The paper also publishes in its "Attention" column on page three a 300-word article by Hasan al-Kashif entitled: "The Blockade and the Requirement." Al-Kashif says due to "absolute U.S. and British hostility to Iraq" those Security Council members "who acknowledged Iraq's commitment and cooperation with the United Nations are alone qualified to represent international will." He adds: "Washington has chosen to be the enemy of Iraq and this is its own affair. But, if it wants to express its dirty options, it should do so outside international legitimacy. At any rate, This is not something new to the United States, which is blockading Cuba due to an American decision with which no one agrees. Therefore, it can, if it wants, remain captive to its failure before Iraq's willpower. But it has no right to ask the international community to adopt a stand which is not based on legitimacy or law. It cannot justify the murder of Iraqi people through hunger and disease."

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 March publishes in its "Standpoint" column on page two a 700-word article by 'Adil Sa'd entitled "The International Change and the Internal Requirement," saying: Two factors were behind "the creation of a significant majority in the Security Council calling for a new approach" Iraq's cooperation with the UN resolutions and its citizens' "great patience and ability to adjust to hardships." Sa'd calls upon the government, headed by the Prime Ministry, to make up for the citizens' endurance internally by improving public services and being "very tough with the renegade parasites and horders who speculate on people's livelihood."

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic on 27 March carries in its "Standpoint" column a 500-word article by 'Isa Ismail al-Abbadi entitled: "The Blockade In a Bottleneck." Al-Abbadi says contacts inside and outside UN lobbies between Iraq and world nations indicate that the blockade "is in a bottleneck and its continuation can no longer be justified by anyone," despite "contradictions" in recent statements by Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, "who, in one press interview, says he cannot now say that he is completely satisfied with what he has achieved in Iraq concerning the implementation of what was requested by the Security Council,

and in another press interview says that he is 'completely satisfied' with what he achieved in Iraq in this regard, but also adding that he cannot now recommend lifting the blockade on Iraq." Al-'Abbadi concludes by saying that in view of these contradictions "It is essential for the Security Council to consider the facts as they stand without being influenced by the biased political influences of the United States."

Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 March 1994 publishes on page two an article by Mazhar 'Arif entitled: "The Security Council and the Game of Nations!" (filed as JN3003215794) in which he warns Iraqi news media against playing up the "split" in the Security Council by raising citizens' hope about "an impending breakthrough," saying what took place was "a game of nations," and the outcome was "a gain for the United States, and not for Iraq."

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 March 1994 carries in its "AL-THAWRAH Diary" on page eight an article by Wadi' al-Muzaffar entitled: "A Pledge by Marsh Arabs." The item says since President Saddam Husayn's "historic speech" to the Iraqi cabinet on Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz' mission to the UN Security Council to lift the blockade, Ba'th Party offices in the , al-Basrah Governorate witnessed continuous tribal rallies in support of the president. The item says tribal chiefs and citizens "armed to the teeth" poured into those offices "demanding to volunteer as fighters against evil aggressors." The item reports on one particular rally in a tribal camp in the marshlands, where an 80-year old tribal chief addressing his sons and grandsons says: "The mean, treacherous act of the Americans and Zionists in blockading Iraq and depriving our people of food and medicine, and their flying of their crows in our airspace on the pretext of protecting us have driven me crazy." He pledges: "We stand behind the leader Saddam Husayn with all we possess: soul, spirit, and the tribe."

Columnist Views Media Attention on UNSC 'Split'

JN3003215794 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Mar 94 p 2

["Mazhar 'Arif Article: "The Security Council, a Game of Nations!"]

[Text] What took place in the UN Security Council over Iraq was, in my personal opinion, a game of nations: Two states against three, and all of them permanent members. Yet, the blockade was extended with the approval of all five on the pretext of routine extension, and the dissemination of a good measure of hope that the position would completely change in favor of lifting the blockade after two months; that is, during the next Council session in May. The proof was that the traditional chairman's statement on the extension, which is normally released every two months by the Council, was not issued this time because of what they termed a

"split" between the permanent member states over the draft of that statement. It is really unfortunate, in my opinion also, that our papers have been carried away by this game of nations and have entered into some kind of race between them to break the good tidings to the citizen about an impending breakthrough in our tribulation, while what was required, according to the science of politics—and this is another aspect of the whole issue—was that we should not have tampered with the citizen's sentiments and thoughts by relying on certain situations that developed here and there connected with the motives and calculations of all these sides in the Security Council.

The sides in the game of nations have reduced the issue of the criminal blockade on Iraq, in which all the permanent members and other world nations have taken part, into a mere statement. On this basis, a Don Quixote-like battle has taken place in which wooden swords were used, and here lies the theatrical.

Those who opposed the draft of the chairman's statement and insisted on including references to Iraq's cooperation with the world organization, but could not do so due to the opposition of the United States, Britain and Argentina, should have lifted the blockade themselves or transformed the Council session into an occasion for a general debate on the sanctions, which have been imposed on our country, with the view to removing them or using the veto against any U.S. endeavor to prolong the blockade—which is what I referred to in my article last Saturday—in order to affirm the credibility of their new conviction, interpret their words into actual deeds, but above all, affirm something which is even more important; namely, their freedom to determine their own foreign policy and to make decisions according to national and international interests, not as they are required to do by others now or at any other time.

In order not to deceive our people—and this is a matter that concerns us in the press and the other news media—we must convey to them the full picture about any situation. In the case of the last UN Security Council session, we should not have relied on ready-made analyses or answers concerning the positions taken by the permanent member states of the Security Council and other members in the Council. When we explain to the people what happened by saying that this means the beginning of a split between the big powers because some of them—and this is the prevalent talk now in political writings—have begun to realize the danger of being continuously dragged behind U.S. policy, and to clearly see their interests with Iraq, for instance, which are long and historical interests, we should also tell the reader that what took place in the Security Council was a political exercise by some people for different reasons that concern only them. Each state that spoke about the positive points in the Iraqi position did so with the aim of bargaining with the Americans over certain national and other issues by using Iraq this time.

Therefore, as far as I am concerned, what took place in the Security Council does not deserve the importance it was given by our press or the foreign press. What took place was an attempt to calm Iraq, reduce world public pressure to lift the blockade on Iraq, and to busy everyone at least for the present time with the game of the division within the Council without disturbing or annoying the United States.

In the final analysis, this is a gain for the United States and not really for Iraq. True, what took place—and regardless of the opinions expressed in this article—was a positive development in the positions of Russia and France in particular, since China is known to have expressed its reservations on every resolution adopted against Iraq right from the beginning, we must not exaggerate that development, unless it develops into a definite new relationship with Iraq, outside U.S. trusteeship, as of now and without waiting for the next Security Council session in May.

Columnist: Hebron Foreshadow of 'Popular Rebellion'

JN3003135994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Mar 94 p 3

["Attention" column by Hasan al-Kashif: "Shelling of Hebron's Occupation"]

[Text] After 27 years of military occupation of the City of Hebron, the occupation authorities could not find a way to control the city other than by artillery shelling, anti-tank rockets, and heavy machine guns. By this invasion, Hebron says it is a city that cannot submit to the will of the Zionists, and that it is a Palestinian Arab city with a free will that could not be subdued by years of captivity, suppression, murder, deportation, confiscation of lands, and encroachment on sanctities.

In Hebron, a real war continued for 18 hours after the city was isolated and besieged by the occupation army, thereby revealing its old colonial face. The army intervened after the settlers had failed to subdue the will of the Ibrahimi Mosque guards, who are all Hebronites, brothers of Gazans, sons of all Palestine who deepened their affiliation with their Arabism with heavy sacrifices, while all others around them were heading toward their final downfall in the final, historical screening of the entire Arab popular and official rank.

At the peak of talks on the details of how to deprive international protection of its effectiveness, the army of Rabin and Peres invaded Hebron to re-occupy it and guarantee effective protection of the settlers, whose crime Rabin and Peres had disowned for temporary political reasons.

But by that 18-hour armed confrontation, Palestinian militants, who believe in their freedom, sovereignty, and

full rights, showed they were in full control of their will and that they had completely given up the idea of attaining their rights outside the confrontation field. Because everything in Hebron and all other towns and camps of occupied Palestine is now clear, and everything in the labyrinths of open and secret talks is suspect and vague. Chief negotiator Shahal is a false man of peace at the negotiation table; in the battlefield, however, he is a general armed to the teeth with U.S. weapons and racist Zionist hatred. Once he is through with his murderous, suppressive tasks, he changes his uniform and goes back to continue his mission at the negotiations table. It is precisely here that we clearly see the union of enemy words and deeds. It is also here, unfortunately, that we clearly notice the absence and growing separation of the [Palestinian] negotiator from the resistance stand in Hebron which, like other parts of the land, is creating its own glory and delivering another child, who will hold a stone to the face of the occupation soldier, with his helmet and gun, and force him to flee in defeat.

Is Washington, which recognizes Jerusalem as the eternal capital of "Israel," suitable as an arbiter of justice after all bloody massacres and moral scandals?!

Denunciation is our firm answer at this stage when the Intifada is moving toward a wider armed confrontation, opening the way for a general armed popular rebellion, which will definitely come.

Aggressors Denied Opportunity To Retain Sanctions

JN3003124694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Mar 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Henceforth Blame-Free" by 'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin]

[Text] In coping with aggression and the blockade, our ancient people, interacting with their leadership, have lined up a number of mechanisms that have brought the crisis to manageable proportions, and thus thwarted the primary objectives of the aggression and the blockade.

Not a single Iraqi has even entertained the possibility of kowtowing to the aggressors or conceding their demands. Nor has any Iraqi ever thought of abandoning his people's interests or sovereignty. Our first mechanism was the armed struggle to ward off aggression and rout its first line in the south of the country, where the men of the demanding missions attached to the Republican Guards proved they were not sitting targets for invaders, but men standing ready to defend their land. Iraq did not provide the example of a nation crushed by the United States, but rather an example of a people who, with the benefit of the right leadership and a willingness to sacrifice, can hold out and stand firm. Then came the rebuilding mechanism that proved to the enemies they could not possibly set Iraq back to the pre-industrial age.

However, as Iraq patiently pursued the jihad and reconstruction effort, it also followed a political line of its own that fragmented the opposing forces, increased its own supporters, and denied the enemies any justifications for any fresh aggression on its infrastructure. Iraq has proved that it is not a discordance in international relations, but the repository of legitimate hopes. It has shown itself to be a champion of freedom, security, advancement, and peace.

The aggressors have been waiting for any false steps by Iraq to justify retaining the sanctions, but they have been denied this opportunity by Iraq's judiciousness.

Thus, Iraq is now free to say and do what it will in defense of its security and interests, and has left scope for no one to fault the way it is conducting itself.

Rabin, Peres, Others React to Hebron Agreement**Rabin Holds News Conference**

TA3103171094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1602
GMT 31 Mar 94

[Report by correspondent Netan'el Semrik on news conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv on 31 March—recorded]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, held a news conference a short while ago in which he sharply criticized right-wing figures and the rabbis who called on soldiers to disobey orders. Rabin said that this was moral lawlessness, irresponsibility, hypocrisy, and lies. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports.

[Semrik] Good evening from the our broadcasting van at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. In a news conference for electronic media correspondents which ended exactly two minutes ago, Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, vehemently attacked right-wing figures and the rabbis, accusing them of setting the precedent for a transfer of Jewish population. This in reaction to the charges leveled against him about the possibility of evacuating the Jewish settlers from Hebron. Let us hear some of Rabin's remarks:

[Rabin] The Palestinians have given up their demand for a police force. We agreed to a certain increase in the size of the international presence to 160 people, of which 90 will be Norwegians, 35 Danes, and 35 Italians. Those personnel who will serve as observers will report to a joint team composed by the mayor of Hebron and the military governor. They will also report to the liaison committee we agreed upon in the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington, which will be headed on the Israeli side by the foreign minister and on the Palestinian side by Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. We very much hope that this new situation will help restore calm to Hebron and of course permit the resumption of the negotiations over reaching an agreement on the implementation of the first stage of the Declaration of Principles: Gaza-Jericho First. Indeed, the formal opening of the negotiations on Gaza-Jericho First began today in Cairo and will resume on Sunday [3 April] when our delegation arrives there to continue the negotiations as rapidly as possible in order to finalize, sign, and subsequently implement the agreement. At the same time, we agreed to permit the first Palestinian policemen to enter the Gaza Strip and Jericho to begin organizing themselves—in Gaza city as well as in other locations in the strip and in Jericho—without them assuming any police duties at this stage. Only one party must retain overall responsibility for security. Israel will retain sole responsibility for security in Hebron. This also remains the case, at this stage, throughout the Gaza Strip as well as in that area of Jericho where the Palestinian self-administration body will be established within the framework of Gaza-Jericho First.

I am pleased with the fact that we have managed to overcome the obstacles created by the despicable massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs and the subsequent incidents, and that we have managed to get the negotiations back on track. Hopefully, they will now be accelerated. I believe that the appropriate reply to the enemies of peace and to those people from both sides who are trying to murder the process should be to speed up the negotiations and implement Gaza-Jericho First in order to prove to all the enemies of peace on all sides that they will not be able to prevent the process from moving ahead.

[Semrik] Mr. Prime Minister, is 13 April Israel's preferred target date for starting its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, even under the assumption that the agreement with the PLO will not be fully completed by that time?

[Rabin] At this stage we must first complete a clear, detailed, and comprehensive agreement on security and control arrangements, as well as major economic issues before fully implementing the agreement and carrying out the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. Nevertheless, as I mentioned earlier, we are permitting the initial planning and organization of the police force—at this stage we are talking about something between 100 to 150 Palestinian policemen who will be stationed in the Gaza Strip and Jericho—in order to make the appropriate preparations. We want the transfer of authority to be carried out as rapidly as possible but in an orderly manner. We do not want any vacuums or ambiguities regarding responsibility. The transfer of authority will take place when the Palestinians are thoroughly ready to shoulder their responsibility to uphold law and public order, as well as for preventing serious incidents in the areas under their control.

[Israel Television Channel 1 correspondent Gadi Sukenik] Mr. Rabin, as this news conference is being recorded, right-wing leaders are holding a meeting in Qiryat Arba'. They have issued a firm demand not to evacuate Jewish settlers from the territories, especially not from Hebron. Do you accept their demand?

[Rabin] I would like to tell the right wing that they were the first to carry out a transfer of Jews during the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula. All the settlements were evacuated, Yamit was torn down, and Ofira was abandoned. I advise them to remember who established the precedent that when signing a peace treaty with an Arab country, Israel is expected to return all the territories seized from that country by the IDF in the 1967 war. Who was the first to set the precedent of what they call a Jewish transfer from all of the Sinai Peninsula while uprooting all signs of an Israeli presence there? It is time for them to stop making these statements which are full of hypocrisy and lies. For the time being, nobody is talking about evacuating the Jewish settlers from Hebron.

[Israel Television Channel 2 correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen] Sir, former prime minister Yitzhaq Shamir today joined the rabbis in calling on IDF soldiers to refuse to obey orders to implement such a withdrawal. Now that it is not just one or two lunatics issuing such a call, do you not fear the possibility of a civil war or problems within the Army?

[Rabin] I am convinced that calling on soldiers to refuse to obey legal orders issued by a legally elected government is an act of total lawlessness and irresponsibility. I would like to remind everyone that many soldiers and large segments of the public questioned the way the Lebanon war was handled. There were even officers and public figures who called on soldiers not to serve in Lebanon. I said then and I reiterate today that nothing poses a greater threat to the continued existence of Israel as a democratic country and to the future of the IDF as the people's army than such calls to reject legal orders. Many soldiers refused to serve in the territories. There were also public organizations which called on soldiers to refuse to carry out such missions. I stated at the time, regardless of whether or not I was in the government or of what position I held, that it was inconceivable to call on an IDF soldier to refuse to carry out legal orders. I think that what is happening now—whether these are calls by rabbis or statements by various public figures—constitutes lawlessness and irresponsibility on a level unprecedented in the State of Israel's history.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Shlomo Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, you mentioned that the observers will carry out additional tasks and help the Hebron Municipality do its job. Could you give us some more details on this matter?

[Rabin] We made such a proposal. The issue has yet to be formulated but some of the international personnel will not function as observers but rather carry out administrative duties and assist the Hebron Municipality whenever such aid is required.

[Raz] For example?

[Rabin] On economic issues, engineering, education and in other fields depending on the municipality's needs. This of course, depends on the relationship that develops between the municipality and the members of the temporary international force.

[Rosen] Mr. Rabin, you said that Palestinian policemen would begin entering the Gaza Strip and Jericho next week. Is the start of a withdrawal by the IDF also included in the attempt to accelerate the implementation of the agreement, even before the latter is completely finalized and signed?

[Rabin] In the area of the Gaza Strip, the IDF is in the midst of redeploying for the new situation which take effect following the signing of the agreement. This redeployment does not cover all fields. The IDF retains responsibility for overall security throughout the entire Gaza Strip. Therefore, while there is redeployment on

the one hand, we continue to bear overall responsibility for whatever happens in the Gaza Strip.

[Sukenik] What is your reaction to the killing of the six Fatah Hawks in Jabalyah on 29 March?

[Rabin] That was a regrettable mishap. However, in my opinion and to the best of my knowledge from the reports so far, the IDF soldiers acted correctly. This was a regrettable mishap which resulted from a lack of coordination. I hope that the entry of the first police contingent will permit a higher degree of coordination and preclude unnecessary confrontations.

[Semrik] Mr. Prime Minister, is the scenario of either evacuating the Jewish settlers from Hebron or concentrating them in one site closer today than it was several days ago?

[Rabin] I am dealing with this issue now and I will not comment on it. I made it clear that we have no intention of uprooting the Israeli presence in Hebron, certainly not at this stage of the negotiations.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, do you not fear that a precedent has been set for the stationing of international forces at various locations beyond the Green Line whenever there are problems?

[Rabin] I consider this an exception. The horrendous massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs was perpetrated by an Israeli with a weapon issued to him by the IDF for self-defense purposes. This man also donned an IDF uniform, although he was not on military duty. Statements were also made by various elements which almost justified this man's deed. The State of Israel is paying for all this just as it might pay with the lives of Jews both in Israel and abroad as a result of the fury and anger caused by this despicable murder.

Peres Queried on Hebron Agreement

TA3103185394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Shlomo Ganor in Peres' office on 31 March—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from Hebrew]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Peres, does the agreement on security arrangements in Hebron provide satisfactory answers to the special situation and needs of the city?

[Peres] It stems from the special situation in the city, and in my opinion it can alleviate the tension in the city, as well as bring about the resumption and early conclusion of the Gaza and Jericho talks.

[Ganor] Will this agreement serve as an example for other agreements which could be implemented on the ground before the autonomy is established?

[Peres] I do not think so. I hope there will be no need to repeat this thing, meaning that there will be no more

terrible incidents such as at the Cave of the Patriarchs. I want to state unequivocally that the Israeli Government alone is responsible for security at the Cave of the Patriarchs and for enabling Jewish and Muslim worshippers to pray freely and without any danger to their lives. Not the settlers, guards, or anyone else is responsible for security—only we are. Naturally we are interested in implementing arrangements which would permit peaceful prayers. In future we will consult with the Waqf on everything relating to the Muslim side, just as we have done in the past.

[Ganor] What are the next steps, now that this agreement has been signed?

[Peres] The main thing now is to facilitate the final part of the Gaza and Jericho negotiations and to implement this agreement soon. On the basis of the agreement achieved last night, seven days following the signing of the agreement on Hebron Palestinian police units are slated to start entering Gaza. This is to all intents and purposes the beginning of the agreement's implementation.

[Ganor] Does the Hebron agreement pave the way for implementing the Gaza and Jericho agreement?

[Peres] Certainly. The negotiations on Gaza and Jericho started the moment we reached agreement on Hebron. The Hebron agreement was signed today at 1100; immediately after that the Gaza and Jericho negotiations started. We will work ceaselessly until these negotiations are completed. The implementation stage will also be considerably accelerated.

[Ganor] Is there an understanding regarding the timetable for the completion of the negotiations?

[Peres] Some people say it will take a week, others that it will take two weeks. It depends on the rate of our work and on the problems we encounter. If we find quick solutions to the problems—such as the problems of jurisdiction and authority—then the process will be very quick. If there are problems, this could slow down the process.

[Ganor] Will Israel stick to the target date of 13 April?

[Peres] Israel will strive to honor this date—whether the 13th, 14th, or 15th of April, the precise day does not matter so much. Again, this depends on our not encountering serious or unexpected problems. I hope things will run smoothly. My inner feeling is that the PLO—just like us—is interested in finally ending the negotiations and turning this into a reality. This is the first time the Palestinian people will have a concrete piece of reality, not merely a piece of paper, a declaration, a congratulatory or condolences letter—but rather a territory, an authority, an administration, and responsibility, as is proper.

Sources Voice 'Mixed Feelings'

TA3103191794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Video report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpts] Sources in Jerusalem are concerned that the entrance of the international force into Hebron will create difficulties, but Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening said he hopes this is an exceptional and one-time arrangement. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen heard the Israeli reaction to the Cairo agreement:

[Rosen] In Jerusalem there are mixed feelings today. On the one hand there is satisfaction with the success in defusing the dangerous Hebron situation; on the other hand there is concern about the precedent and difficulties involved in bringing international forces into the territories. [passage omitted]

The PLO gains three things from the international presence: international recognition in the special problems of Hebron; interference with Israeli activities in the city; and receiving something that Israel sharply opposed from the beginning. The PLO also received a promise to accelerate the withdrawal process from the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Agreement Seen as 'Arafat Achievement'

TA0104115394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Apr pp 1, 10

["Political commentary" by Shim'on Schiffer: "PLO's Achievement"]

[Text] PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat can enter another achievement in the log of his long voyage toward independence for his Palestinian people.

The Oslo agreement formulators never even dared put the possibility of foreign observers in the territories in writing. It was taboo as far as Israel was concerned. And yet now Israel has consented, for the first time, to the deployment of an international force in the territories, and it does not matter that it is called "temporary international presence."

Since 1967, Israel has refused, in one way or another, all Palestinian demands raised through UN-endorsed resolutions to hand the territories over to international custody. Now the demand has been accepted as the interim stage en route to the territories transfer to the Palestinians. The gain, therefore, is now all 'Arafat's.

As for the opponents to the agreement with the PLO, they can, if they like, direct their complaints to Dr. Barukh Goldstein. This was his present to them. The Hebron massacre accelerated proceedings designed to sever and separate Israelis from Palestinians.

'Arafat conceded nothing in the negotiations conducted after the Hebron massacre: Contrary to reports about the Palestinians' waiving the deployment of Palestinian policemen in Hebron, they did not give in even on this issue. 'Arafat had no use for a Palestinian police that was subordinate to Israeli command. He was afraid—with reason, from his viewpoint—that the Palestinian public would perceive such policemen as collaborators with the occupation regime. Thus the force of several dozens Norwegians, to which Israel had agreed, became a 160-member observer force with a freedom of action in Hebron.

The second Cairo agreement, which was signed yesterday by Amnon Shahaq and Nabil Sha'th, concurs with what any reader of the Oslo agreement has always known—that Israel is going to surrender the territories it took in 1967. The Oslo agreement has been described as vague and ambiguous in many spheres; the second Cairo agreement elucidates the issues for those who are still in the dark as to Israel's destination.

This agreement will also have a political ramification: Please note that within a year, Israel will have gained many enemies in Norway, Denmark, and Italy, three currently friendly countries. The dispatch of observers from these countries to Hebron is the surest way to turn the amicable relations with people from these countries into hostility and resentment.

Rabin Urged Not To Commit To Evacuate Settlements

TA0104113594 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Apr 94*

[Text] The prime minister is conferring with opposition leaders on the situation in the territories. Before the meeting, the opposition leaders met and decided to urge Mr. Rabin to make a commitment not to evacuate any settlements.

There was a large meeting at the prime minister's bureau this morning to sum up the agreement reached on Hebron security arrangements and the resumption of the Gaza-Jericho first talks. Our political correspondent reports that Israel has expressed displeasure with the suspension of the Israeli-PLO economic talks, which the PLO initiated. The delegation for talks on Gaza-Jericho security will leave for Cairo on Sunday and on Monday the delegation for talks on civilian matters will leave.

Rabin Says No Settlement Removal

TA0104113894 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Apr 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told opposition leaders that the plan to concentrate the Hebron Jews in one place or to evacuate settlements from the territories has been removed from the agenda. National Religious Party Knesset Member Yig'al Bibi told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal. The prime minister also said that there is no intention to evacuate even Tall al-Rumaythah.

He reiterated that the Likud created the precedent of uprooting settlements. The opposition leaders warned against evacuating settlements and said it would cause a deep split in the nation.

Peres Informs Foreign Ministers About Observers

TA3103201394 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 31 Mar 94*

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this evening spoke with the foreign ministers of Italy and Norway about the international presence in which their countries will participate. Peres explained that the presence is not military, but rather civilian and economic in nature. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports the two ministers expressed their countries' willingness to participate in the international observers force. The foreign minister will summon the Norwegian, Danish, and Italian ambassadors in the next few days in order to discuss the details.

Peres Reportedly To Concentrate on Syrian Track

TA3103195994 *Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Mar 94*

[Video report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who until recently opted for the Jordanian option, has recently changed his position and decided to concentrate mainly on facilitating the dialogue with Damascus. For this purpose, he even postponed a visit abroad. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports about a new emphasis emerging in Jerusalem:

All those who have recently been closely following comments made by Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres regarding the price Israel will have to pay on the Golan Heights, could not avoid noticing that there was more in these remarks than a change in nuance. The previous statement according to which the depth of withdrawal will equal the depth of peace has now been replaced by much more explicit remarks. Several days ago, appearing before the Forum for Peace and Security, Rabin made explicit remarks which were published in the press and have not been denied so far. Rabin spoke about normalization of relations before Israel completes the withdrawal from the Golan Heights, rather than on the Golan Heights—a withdrawal to which it will commit itself in the framework of the negotiations. The entire issue hinges on the difference in the preposition.

Jerusalem sources speak about a positive atmosphere emanating from Damascus nowadays, but Rabin is saying that he is still awaiting a signal from al-Asad, after which the sky will be the limit—or perhaps the international border. What is Rabin waiting for? Three things mainly: for the process to become overt, that is, public meetings at a senior level; openness toward Israel on the Syrian media; and pro-Israeli comments by Syrian leaders.

The most recent developments, however, have occurred in Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who so far was the one with most reservations regarding Syria and who supported the Jordan option, has changed his position. Peres is extremely annoyed with King Husayn for not making any progress in his contacts with Israel, and has decided to invest all his efforts in the contacts with Syria. Peres is thereby joining the Syrian lobby, which includes IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Chief Uri Sagi, Chief of Staff Ehud Barak, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, and Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. For this reason he announced he is canceling a planned visit to Ethiopia and Eritrea, this in order to focus his efforts on negotiations with Syria.

Rabin, Peres Bureau Deny Report on Ties With Iraq

TA3103123194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Mar 94 p A6

[Report by Aluf Ben and Dafna Vardi]

[Excerpt] The U.S. Administration has recently expressed concern over publications regarding contacts between Israel and Iraq. U.S. Ambassador in Israel Edward Djerejian has asked Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for answers on this issue.

The prime minister vehemently denied the existence of any contacts with Baghdad. A senior political source in Jerusalem said last week: "There is no point in maintaining contacts with Iraq as long as Saddam Husayn is in power. Saddam is a madman, and you do not marry one."

According to the British weekly FOREIGN REPORT, Israel and Iraq have been holding indirect contacts through European and Palestinian mediators in a bid to expand the peace process. According to the paper, in the framework of the contacts, efforts are being made to arrange a meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and a senior Iraqi figure.

The foreign minister's bureau yesterday denied the London weekly story, saying: "this is nonsense." [passage omitted]

Rabin To Testify Before Shamgar Commission 6 Apr

TA3103184094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] The Shamgar Commission of Inquiry into the Hebron massacre held closed hearings this afternoon. It heard testimonies from the head of the Jerusalem district in the Shin Bet. Earlier Colonel Moshe Giv'ati, the former commander of Judea, told the commission that the Army's open-fire orders were unclear, and most soldiers did not understand them.

A spokesman for the prime minister said Yitzhak Rabin has been called to testify next Wednesday [6 April], but he will also be questioned behind closed doors.

Aloni Urges Halting Hunt of Fatah, Hamas Operatives

TA3003114594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 March 94 p A3

[ITIM report]

[Text] "We must stop the hunt of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah members in the territories, where they live, and prepare the transition to the interim arrangements." This remark was made yesterday by Shulamit Aloni, minister of communications, science, and the arts. She was referring to the incident in which ago Six Fatah members who were not wanted by the security forces were killed in the Gaza Strip two days ago.

Minister Aloni said that "the need to capture another three or five people is outweighed by the great effort the IDF and the Defense Ministry have been investing in the peace process and the implementation of its results. We are the rulers here. We have the strongest army in the Middle East. This hunt for another two or three terrorists is out of proportion with the great thing that should take place here," she said.

This recent incident was not initiated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], she said, "because we are about to leave the territories. Our role there is nearly over."

Aloni noted that the occurrence of such incidents can be prevented at this time "provided that the IDF does not initiate operations, thus reducing friction between the parties."

The minister concluded her remarks by saying that "although, in the wake of the incident, there is rage, pain, and a desire to take revenge in the territories today, the residents there must realize that there is always a tomorrow and a day after, and that that day could promise security, liberty, and freedom of movement, as well as human, political, and civil rights for the residents. We must be patient for the sake of that day."

Probe Condone Troops' Conduct in Gaza Killings

TA3003113594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Mar 94 p 6

[Report by military correspondent Arye Kiesel and David Regev]

[Text] Brigadier General Doron Almog, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip, and Colonel Sh., commander of the Gaza Strip northern brigade, have ordered the IDF commanders in the Strip to act in the future just as did the undercover soldiers who killed six senior Fatah members two days ago. There

is no other method of operation in a confrontation with masked and uniformed persons, the two said.

The two also recommended that the commanders of the undercover unit give their soldiers a citation of merit for their performance. The recommendation was made at the close of the full debriefing of the incident.

A senior officer who was at the debriefing noted: "We made it clear to the force that its performance was remarkable. We must remember, especially the bleeding hearts, that on Passover eve one of our officers was shot in the abdomen and is still in grave condition. The undercover unit was praised by the chief of staff as well. It is impossible to make a distinction between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]."

Following are the findings of the IDF debriefing:

- Two hours before the incident, a hand grenade was thrown at the IDF outpost in Jabalyah.
- Over the past two weeks, 11 hand grenades and explosive charges were thrown at that post.
- The incident was not initiated by the undercover unit. Its task was to guard the outpost.
- The unit spotted six men who were wearing checkered uniforms and masks—in contradiction to the agreements made over the past months between the IDF and Fatah.
- The force opened fire at the six, four of whom were holding loaded guns in their hands and aiming them at the soldiers.

Despite the satisfaction in the IDF over the way the soldiers performed, there is serious embarrassment over the fact that the dead men were senior Fatah members who supported the peace process.

Immediately after the incident, Gen. Almog met with the Gaza Strip Fatah commanders. Among others, he met with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah. Almog made it clear to Abu-Zayidah that the standing IDF orders compelled the soldiers to react the way they did. He expressed his regret over the incident, and stated that cooperation between Fatah and the IDF should continue.

Abu-Zayidah found it hard to accept the remarks: "This was one big massacre which could have been prevented," he said. "The Army has no business being in Jabalyah. The soldiers should not have been there in the first place. These men wanted peace very much and supported it."

At the end of their meeting, Gen. Almog and Abu-Zayidah agreed that operational coordination between Fatah and the IDF troops in the Gaza Strip will expand. A cooperation mechanism—a sort of a "hot line"—may possibly be set up to facilitate the exchange of ongoing information between the parties.

A senior Southern Command officer said yesterday that early coordination between Fatah and the IDF could

have prevented the killing of the six Fatah members. "Let them make no accusations," the senior officer said. "Fatah should have coordinated the presence of its men in the region. It should not have sent armed and uniformed men into the heart of the 'hot' region."

"There have been incidents in the past when we allowed Fatah men to stage marches while carrying their guns, as long as this was done for their internal purposes. Unnecessary victims can be spared when things are coordinated," he said.

IDF Withdrawal, Gaza Police Set for Mid-Apr

TA0104142494 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
31 Mar 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpts] Political sources in Jerusalem have revealed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will begin withdrawing from the Gaza Strip in the second half of April even if by then there is no signed agreement with the Palestinians, provided that there is momentum of progress in the negotiations. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that Israel is considering the option of starting the transfer of self-authority powers over to the Palestinians in Gaza even before ending the negotiations and signing the agreement.

Senior political sources have recently hinted that this option is being seriously considered particularly in view of the unrest in the territories expected to take place in the coming days of "twilight" when Israel will still be in charge of the territories while the locals expect to assume self-government authorities.

It is obvious that the move will not be made on 13 April, which marks Memorial Day for the IDF fallen. The last week of April is currently being mentioned. [passage omitted]

Palestinian policemen will enter Gaza as soon as the middle of next week, in coordination with the IDF forces there. This is one of the issues Israeli and PLO representatives agreed on in Cairo. Initially, the delegations convened to discuss security arrangements in Hebron in view of the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre, but the killing of the six senior PLO members in Gaza made it necessary to discuss a change in security concepts in the Gaza Strip as well.

For that reason, Major General Yom-Tov Sami, former commander of the IDF in the Gaza Strip, arrived in Cairo yesterday. He was party to the decision to formulate new joint working procedures in the strip. It has been decided that the PLO delegation will arrive in Gaza next week for a first-hand examination of the deployment of the forces. Obviously, the Palestinian police will be subject to IDF instructions. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that the members of the delegation for the discussion on the Gaza and Jericho agreement have arrived in Cairo. This team does not include the delegates who discuss economic issues.

'New' IDF Evacuation Plan From Strip Detailed

TA0104115294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Apr 94 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Under agreements achieved yesterday in Cairo, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will permit the international force due to deploy in Hebron to set up constructions, such as observation points and offices. Members of the force will be free to drive their cars about and to perform various construction-related tasks without IDF intervention.

A senior military source said last night that he did not think the IDF would be able to complete the Gaza evacuation within 72 hours. "The new plan approved by the IDF indicates that from the moment the Gaza and Jericho agreement is signed, or from 13 April, the IDF will require three weeks to complete its withdrawal. We need this time, and we will not be able to carry out the task in less time," he said.

The military source stressed that the evacuation of Army buildings and bases from the Gaza Strip, which was launched in recent months, was not a comprehensive evacuation and it did not include the evacuation of operational infrastructure. According to the IDF plan, no operational troops are to pull out of the Strip as long as no agreement has been signed.

According to the new plan, the evacuation agenda will be as follows: In the first stage, the Hof 'Aza detention facility; in the second stage, the hotel in which policemen are quartered; later, small bases scattered throughout the Strip; in the fourth stage, observation posts and outposts; and in the last stage, the division and brigades command.

"There will be no actual evacuation until the agreement is signed. We are reducing the number of our troops, but not those of operational nature," the senior source said yesterday.

The implementation of the new evacuation plan began yesterday with the evacuation of Ansar 2, the Hof 'Aza detention facility. The Palestinian detainees and prisoners held in this facility will be moved to Qezi'ot prison. The military source said yesterday that the whole facility will very soon be handed over to the Palestinian police. As soon as the facility is cleared, the Army will evacuate the hotel used as night quarters by Gaza District policemen and as an office building.

Rather than demolish the evacuated buildings, the IDF leaves them intact, including their electricity and water mains. The IDF has not sold any equipment to the

Palestinians, and all the equipment will be moved out. The military source said that the Army continues the construction of new installations in the Qatif Bloc concurrently with the evacuation. Some settlements have agreed to the IDF's building the installations inside their boundaries.

The General Staff Logistics Branch has decided not to call up extra reserve troops for the evacuation. The evacuation process is being assisted by officers who participated in the evacuation of the Sinai bases, and an attempt is being made to apply the lessons learned there to the Gaza situation.

The IDF has begun evacuating facilities in Jericho as well.

NRP Urges Soldiers To Disobey Evacuation Order

TA3003110794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The National Religious Party [NRP] Knesset faction supports the halakic injunction of Rabbis Yisra'eli, Shapira, and Neriya, according to which IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers should disobey the order to evacuate Jews from Hebron. The NRP faction states that the evacuation of Jews from Hebron is a red line from the public point of view and that following the halakic ruling it is also a halakic red line. [passage omitted]

More on Soldiers' Disobeying Order

TA3103154394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] Knesset faction is against soldiers' disobeying orders, and says that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]—including all its forces and echelons—is above the public debate. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports the decision was made unanimously following a session lasting more than four hours. The NRP faction also states that a government decision to evacuate Jews from their homes and lands in Eretz Yisra'el is a terrible edict which contradicts Zionism, Jewish law, and human ethics. The NRP promises to do everything within its power to foil such a decision and calls on the entire Israeli public to evince passive, nonviolent civil resistance to foil such a decision, if it is made.

Right-Wing Support Rally for Hebron in Qiryat Arba'

TA3103172194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] A support rally for the Jewish settlers in Hebron and Qiryat Arba' ended in Qiryat Arba' a short time ago. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that many thousands of people participated in the rally, among them the heads of the Knesset opposition factions and Knesset

members [MK's]. The organizers distributed registration cards urging participants to defend Hebron if a decision is taken to evacuate Jews from the city. Border policemen prevented several young Kakh supporters from hoisting Kakh flags during the rally.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 March, reporting on the Qiryat Arba' rally, adds the following: "MK Ari'el Sharon, who addressed the massive rally, said that as far as he is concerned, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is no longer the foreign minister of the Jewish state, but rather the foreign minister of the state of Palestine. According to Sharon the Israeli Government is not a Jewish and Zionist government, and as far as he is concerned, Shim'on Peres—who is returning the Gaza Strip and Jericho to 'Arafat—can stay there with the head of the PLO." "MK Binyamin Netanyahu called on the audience to oppose the evacuation of Jews from Hebron by all legal means possible. MK Refa'el Eytan demanded that the government hold elections prior to such a move."]

Right Wing Signs Up Volunteers 'To Protect Hebron'

TA0104112194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Apr 94 p 10

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Text] Volunteers signing up for the Magen Avraham [Abraham's Shield] operation—the campaign aiming "to protect Hebron from the danger of Jewish deportation and of Hebron's surrender to the enemy"—are asked to fill out a form which includes a question on the possession of weapons. The form is being currently distributed in Judea and Samaria settlements.

The Magen Avraham operation, which aims to prevent the evacuation of Hebron Jews, is organized by the right-wing bloc's operational command. The command is headed by several settlement activists, as well as right-wing activists living inside the Green Line. In the past, the command played a central role in organizing mass right-wing rallies against the government.

The sign-up form, which was distributed among the attendants of the mass rally in Qiryat Arba' yesterday, asks the potential volunteers to state their IDF [Israel Defense Forces] assignment, navigation skills, whether they are paramedics or doctors, whether they have a driving license, and whether they own a car, a cellular phone, a video camera.

The potential volunteer is asked how many kilometers he is willing and able to walk, if required, and how many days he is prepared to devote to the struggle. The spheres in which activists can volunteer are the distribution of leaflets on road junctions and in mailboxes, fund raising, poster pasting, graphics, marketing, writing and editing, photography, lecturing, and other areas.

Poll Shows Majority Opposes Hebron Evacuation

TA2503203994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Mar 94 p 4

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute headed by Dr. Mena Tzemah]

[Text] Should or should not the settlers be evacuated from the town of Hebron?

Should be evacuated—35 percent; should not be evacuated—60 percent; did not answer—5 percent.

Should or should not the government agree to the stationing of an armed international force in the territories?

Should agree—35 percent; should not agree—60 percent; did not answer—5 percent.

The poll which was conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday this past week encompassed 503 interviewees constituting a representative sample of the entire adult population in Israel. Maximal poll error is 4 percent.

Two Jews Die in 'Terrorist' Attacks; Tourist Wounded

TA0104050194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Police say the killing of 28-year-old Yosi Zandani in Bene 'Ayish near Gadera was apparently a terrorist attack. Zandani was found strangled and stabbed to death early yesterday morning. A police spokesman said a letter in Arabic claimed the murder had been carried out to avenge the death of a Gaza Arab.

Yitzhaq Rottenberg, who died after being wounded in a terrorist attack on Tuesday, will be laid to rest this afternoon. [passage omitted]

A German tourist has been seriously injured in the head in a stone-throwing attack in Qalqilyah. The 43-year-old woman and her daughter, who was slightly hurt, mistakenly drove into the town yesterday, and her car was pelted with rocks. She was taken unconscious to Beilinson Hospital's neurological unit.

Officials, Media Comment on Blockade of al-'Aqabah

Roundtable Held With UN Official

JN3103074094 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1833 GMT 30 Mar 94

["Roundtable" program with Wan Jingzhang, secretary of the UN Iraqi Sanctions Committee, and representatives of the Jordanian economic and government community, moderated by correspondent Zayd Zalatu in Amman on 28 March: "UN Sanctions Imposed on Iraq and Its Effects on the Economy of Jordan"; broadcast simultaneously on Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic with captioned Arabic translation—recorded]

[Text] [Zalatu] The Gulf war will be noted as possibly the most difficult and challenging episode in the history of the Arab world. Although it did not participate in the war, Jordan continues to be one of its most profound victims. As a result of the war, Jordan's population increased by 10 per cent in a matter of months, causing a severe strain on Jordan's economy, infrastructure, and services.

The total financial resources needed to cover the cost of these basic services was estimated at \$3.5 billion. Jordan found itself dealing with this burden alone, at a time in which Israel was receiving \$10 billion in loan guarantees. Jordan was forced to interrupt its economic adjustment program, and witnessed a substantial reduction in the exports of goods and services, workers' remittances, external grants, and endured the diversion of trade routes. The United Nations estimated Jordan's direct external financial losses caused by the conflict at \$4.3 billion for 1990 and 1991.

At present, due to the UN sanctions against Iraq, Jordanian industry and trade continue to suffer from being deprived of this vital market. Prior to the conflict, Iraq was Jordan's largest trading partner, and the feasibility of many Jordanian businesses was based on the buying power of the Iraqi consumer. The UN Sanctions Committee, whose secretary is our guest this evening, was established to grant the necessary permissions to export to Iraq and to monitor the embargo. The export included only humanitarian goods and services.

It is important to note that Jordan is the only country in the region which has strictly adhered to the imposed sanctions. And yet, as Jean Ripert of the United Nations stated in 1990 on a report on the status of the embargo, Jordan is not the target of the embargo, but it may be its greatest victim.

Before we engage in discussion, I would like to welcome our distinguished guest this evening. As I noted, we have Mr. Wan [Jingzhang], the secretary of the Sanctions Committee. He is also the senior political affairs officer in the department of political affairs; Mr. Muhammad al-Jamal, director general of the Customs Department; Engineer 'Imad al-Shamma, deputy treasurer of the

Chamber of Industry; Dr. Durayd al-Mahasiñah, director general of the Jordan Ports Corporation; Mr. Tawfiq Qa'war, chairman of the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association; Mr. Muhammad 'Asfur, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce; and last, but not least, Dr. Muhammad al-Mumtaz, adviser to the minister of finance.

Before we carry on with our discussion, and ask questions from Mr. Wan, I'd like to read a statement from the Royal Court: His Majesty King Husayn has taken the personal lead in this issue. His Majesty King Husayn called to his office at the Royal Court today [28 March] the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to inform them in very clear terms of the pressures and aggravation Jordan faces due to the blockade imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah.

So, as you can see, we are here to discuss one of the most important issues faced by Jordan today.

Mr. Wan, if you could tell us of the mechanisms your committee uses in determining who is allowed to export the humanitarian goods and services to Iraq. As you know, this is an issue of utmost importance for Jordanian merchants and the industrial sector.

[Wan] Thank you, I would like to say in the first place that the Sanctions Committee is very thankful and appreciative for the important contribution made by Jordan for the effective implementation of the sanctions regime established under Resolution 661. I would like to give you a very brief introduction of how the committee works. As you see, the Sanctions Committee is established by Resolution 661, 1990, and the mandate of the committee is also defined very clearly in that resolution, that is Security Council Resolution 661. At the moment, the committee is composed of 15 members, which are also members of the Security Council. You are well aware that they are the five permanent members which are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and also the 10 nonpermanent members. They are Argentina, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Djibouti, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Oman, Rwanda, and Spain.

The committee has established its guiding lines to guide the conduct of its work. Mainly, the principal rule is that a decision has to be made by consensus. This means that any approval for any application, for instance, would have to be approved by all 15 members in the committee. If one of them is against such approval, or is not in a position to agree to any application, that means that application would not be allowed to be exported to Iraq.

I have to mention another point. It is that the responsibility for implementation of that resolution rests with the government. That means all applications would have to come through government channels to this committee. If any individual or any company wishes to export anything to Iraq, he may, through the government channel—here, maybe the Ministry of Finance—and then in turn through the Jordanian permanent mission to the United

Nations to submit the request to this committee. That is the normal procedure. Otherwise, if any request is submitted to the committee directly by that company or merchant, then the committee would have to return it, would have to start from the very beginning. So that takes time. So please, if there is any request, submit them through the Jordanian Government.

I also want to say that, apart from medicine and health supplies, which are exempt from the sanctions, there are foodstuffs which also need only notification to this committee. Apart from these two categories, most applications concern request for export to Iraq of commodities regarded as basic civilian-need items. And these items fall under procedure, which is described in Paragraph 20 of Security Council Resolution 687 as the simplified and accelerated non-objection procedure, which means, the request when it is submitted to the requestee would have to be commented [on] by all 15 members of the committee within a certain time limit.

If no negative comment is received that means that application is automatically approved. But if a member, or some members, are not in a position to approve such a request, they will notify the committee of their position and that one will not be approved. But of course, the final decision would be made at a committee meeting (?which would) be discussed and then a final decision would be made. Once a final decision is made, then a response from the chairman—that is, a letter signed by the chairman—will be addressed to the original requester; that is, the permanent mission of a certain country which has submitted that request to the committee on behalf of any individual or business.

So in that sense, if it is approved, an approval letter would be signed. If it is rejected, a refusal letter would be signed. And there are many cases, because of the lack of information pertaining to that specific request, and some members are not yet ready to have a final decision on that. We call that to put a certain request on hold—to shelve it—and in the meantime to seek further information from the original requester. If further information provided by the original requester is satisfactory, then they may say: It is okay. It could be approved. Then another letter of approval will be issued. But if they are not satisfied by any further information, or if no further information concerning that request is forthcoming, in that case, that particular request would be either refused, or still remain on hold, which means indefinitely on hold, it could last a month, or even years, because they are waiting for further information.

So, for the time being, the committee is working in a way which we try to make the applications simpler and we treat and process those applications in a more effective way. But unfortunately, because of the numbers of requests and also the limited resources we have and because of some of the complicated procedures guiding our work, there is a backlog. And we have succeeded in cutting that backlog to about one and one-half months

now, from three to months at the end of last year. So this is all I want to say at the very beginning.

[Zalatimu] I am sure all our distinguished guests are very anxious to ask and comment on what you just said, but first we'll move to Mr. Muhammad al-Jamal, director general of the Customs Department, because, as you know, the Jordanian Government relies heavily on customs for its income, and with the loss of its most significant trading partner, that, of course, caused some severe financial problems for the department. Please, Mr. al-Jamal.

[Al-Jamal] Thank you. The Jordan Government has to implement the Sanctions Committee 661. And to implement that, the minister of finance have found an office, private office. The purpose of this office is to receive the application of the Jordanian exporters to send goods to Iraq. This office have to receive all his applications and send it through the minister of foreign affairs to our permanent ambassador in the UN. We send these application to get approval to be sent to export goods to Iraq. We found that most of these application is not approved. We have sent 4,454 applications to the Sanctions Committee, we have received 718 approvals, and we have received 852 applications refused, and still 2,984 applications pending.

We are facing a lot of problems with the Sanctions Committee in terms of time needed for approvals, and the discrimination between Jordan applications and other countries' applications, and between the same commodity. For example, we have sent 76 applications for textiles, they approved 11, they refused 41, and still 24 pending.

[Zalatimu] If I can make just a footnote. I think a lot of people send you applications and expect that you are actually the decisionmaking body on what they are allowed to export and what they are not allowed to export. When actually in reality it's Mr. Wan's committee which makes these decisions, so...

[Al-Jamal, interrupting] Thank you for the question. Actually, our job in that is just to receive the application and send it to the UN Sanctions Committee through our ambassador.

[Zalatimu] So, to emphasize, again, you're just a conduit and not a decisionmaking body. So, when citizens come to you with complaints that, for example, they weren't given permission to export y or z, it's not actually on your shoulders, but on...

[Al-Jamal, interrupting] No, exactly. And another question we are facing now, when I am mentioning that we are sending 76 applications for textiles and we just got 11 approvals and that 41 refused. Those 41 [word indistinct] why give approvals to 11 people and you don't give us? Actually, it's not our decision. And we send 44 applications for tires, we received four approvals, and no approvals six, and 34 still pending. For glass, we send nine applications, three approvals approved, one is not

approved, and five is pending. Another example, the last one is clothes. 38 applications, 12 is approved, zero not approved, and 26 still pending.

[Zalatu] Sorry to cut you off, we're going to move Mr. Tawfiq Qa'war, chairman of the Shipping Agents Association. He is essentially Jordan's link to the outside world through its only port, al-'Aqabah, and he has, probably, the most severe gripe with these sanctions and the imposed embargo. Please, Mr. Qa'war.

[Qa'war] Well, inspection started in August of 1990. There was no prearrangement at all. It was all haphazardly, until March of 1991 when the guidelines set out and then we have kept a record as a shipping agents association. We have kept a record, and we have been monitoring every ship that was delayed, inspected, diverted, or refused entry. And, in the guidelines two conditions were played down. One, is that all documentation must be clear and visible, and that is very easy to comply with. And the second precondition is accessibility. Ships must have their cargo fully accessible, and this is very difficult to achieve, especially in general cargo. They are two types, conventional ships, where you have general cargo. And, to make all cargo accessible you have to open corridors and they keep some stackings of cargo here and there. So this is not safe for the ship in its navigation, nor for the cargo itself, containers, to have them accessible, I'll give you a very simple example which explains the difficulty of the situation. A ship coming from north continent down to the Red Sea serving al-'Aqabah. Let's say we will have around 1,000 containers. This is mainly the Red Sea Express, which is the basic line consortium of lines serving al-'Aqabah with that area. It has 400, let's say, containers to al-'Aqabah general, and 600 to the other ports. It cannot come to al-'Aqabah with 1,000 containers to be fully accessible. Logistically this is impossible, so the ship has to go to Jeddah first, discharge the cargo, al-Hudaydah, Djibouti, Port, Sudan, restore al-'Aqabah cargo again, leave corridors among the containers, come back to al-'Aqabah so that it can be fully accessible, discharge the containers of al-'Aqabah, reload the empties, and the exports, go down to Jeddah, Port Sudan, Saudi, come back through the Suez Canal up north. This round trip cost the ship between 250 to 300 thousand dollars, plus the delays that the ships must pass in by daylight, come out by daylight. All these delays cost money. Therefore, it is the ship owners who impose a certain inspection search charge, which is \$500 for a 20-footer, and a \$1,000 for a 40-footer container. This goes to the ship owners. It does not go to the United Nations, let's make this very clear.

[Zalatu] Would you say this is the most difficult period you faced as a shipping agent?

[Qa'war] Exactly, yes. And I have to continue to give you this idea about the damages which have been caused Jordanian economy from the point of view of extra insurance at the beginning of the Gulf, from the delays in inspections, from the surcharges that have been

imposed, from the losses of exports of Iraqi cargo, the losses of the import of the Jordanian-Iraqi cargo via al-'Aqabah. All this has cost the country, according to our calculation, in the vicinity, about 600 million dinars, close to \$900 million, which is a very substantial crunch. The negative effect on the shipping side is that out of 41 regular lines that were calling at al-'Aqabah, 21 have stopped. Some others are now transshipping via Jeddah with feeding services. Al-'Aqabah has lost its position as a major port in the Red Sea and has become a subsidiary port. Before, al-'Aqabah was very important port for ship owners. Ships coming in, let us say, with 10,000 tonnes of sugar, on completion of this charge will easily pick up phosphate, potash, and go out. So, we were enjoying shipper freight coming in, shipper freight going out.

The other losses is the lack of confidence by the importers and exporters in their ships or containers coming to al-'Aqabah with raw materials afraid that the ship will be diverted, move their cargo via Latakia, Beirut, and Tartus. Last year, over a half a million tonnes out of 3 millions discharged in al-'Aqabah moved via those ports. This is another loss.

While sitting with the American side in September 1993, we discussed this question at length. And a suggestion came from them saying this is a very a cumbersome operation. Why don't you get an organization like Lloyd's, independent organization, to do this inspection on land? And we jumped at this suggestion and we placed it with the ICC, International Chamber of Commerce, in Paris, through which we have been complaining to the international world what is happening in al-'Aqabah and keeping them informed. They agreed to it, they supported us with Lloyd's, and finally we reached the Lloyd's Register to come in and do the inspection in the port, not as reported by the radio services from 5 o'clock this morning that the ships will be inspected in al-'Aqabah. We do not want the ships to be inspected in al-'Aqabah because we will be back in square one, where ships will not be able to have their full capacity. It is essential that the ships coming through the Tiran Straits, in accordance with the freedom of navigation—a condition recognized all over the world—with their full capacity, and the cargo can be discharged in the port. It will be inspected in the port area, during the customs clearance. And I think the discussions between the Jordan Government and the United States Government have advanced a lot towards instructing this job to an internationally-recognized independent non-profit organization called Lloyd's Register to do the job. And we hope that the ideal solution after three and a half years of agony and losses, it is time that we take stock, and the international community takes stock and looks at what is happening in al-'Aqabah. The ideal solution—since Jordan is effectively complying with the United Nations resolutions and not one single package can move to Iraq unless there is a United Nations inspection certificate with it, and since no cargo can be loaded at the loading port if it is consigned to Iraq, cannot be loaded, and there has not been one single package which has been caught

for Iraq—therefore, we suggest the inspection could be lifted entirely, if this is not impossible [as heard] for some reason or another, then we move over to the inspection of cargo in the port. And I think this will be a very good proposal for the time being and we will fully support it.

[Zalatimu] Ok, thank you, sir. Staying in al-'Aqabah, Dr. al-Mahasinah, who is the director general of the Jordan Ports Corporation, I am sure feels a lot of your agony. You two have become very good friends, I assume, in the past few years.

[Al-Mahasinah] Well, as Mr. Qa'war mentioned and as you emphasized, we became so much in business together, unfortunately with this negative side effects. But, let me first welcome Mr. Wan in this panel, and thank you for presenting the whole issue, which is really vital. It took its climax yesterday, when His Majesty King Husayn called the five ambassadors to the Royal Court and really expressed our agony about this thing. Our agony is expressed both in statistics that my colleagues would mention or state and in principle. We feel that all the resolutions that Mr. Wan mentioned, 661 and the rest, Jordan was not the subject of these resolutions in the idea, or in principle, or in writing. Unfortunately, in practice, it is Jordan that is suffering out of these resolutions. We don't find a reason why. I don't find a reason why my cargo should be inspected and scattered all over the world; I don't find a reason why the UN, or any other agencies, or any other governments would take me as a victim or as an enemy and scatter my cargo all over the world and divert my ships. In the years since 1990 till 1994, approximately 150 ships were either prevented or delayed or not allowed to proceed to al-'Aqabah.

Gentlemen, in terms of money, this is too much that Jordan can take. Our cargo in the Port of al-'Aqabah dropped. In 1989, we used to handle about 20 million tonnes a year of exports and imports. We now handle, 1993 figures showed that we only handled 11.6, this is a drop from 1992, which was 13.3. That means that the situation is aggravated. And I don't find a reason for it; neither do I find a solution for it. Each tonne of cargo makes 25 JD's, which is approximately \$32 and plus; that is, we have truck drivers benefiting out of that, approximately 7,000-8,000 trucks are working to load and unload this cargo; we have agents like Mr. Qa'war and his colleagues; the commercial sector and the industrial sector. All these people. The revenues, not my exact revenues, which are estimated with a loss of approximately \$200 million to \$250, I would presume that this situation is unbelievably unjustified, very harmful, and it causing me that much of disastrous consequences.

In this regard, I don't find a reason that why should this inspection goes on, and I don't find a mandate for it. If through the 150 ships that you diverted out of entering the Gulf of Aqaba, all the cargo on them came back was justified, and, as Mr. Qa'war mentioned, not a single box

was found destined or bound to Baghdad in violation of 661, so why should this go on?

[Zalatimu] I think it is important to know also the way in which ships are often pirated by the MIF's, the Military Intervention Forces, which I believe are intend to be a U.S.-led groups which divert Jordanian ships to other ports, often not knowing exactly where they're going to, the captain of a ship doesn't exactly know where he is going....

[Al-Mahasinah, interrupting] Let me add to this and give you an example. We had an example two weeks ago, or during the past two weeks. A ship came to al-'Aqabah, its cargo was refused, it did send the cargo back to Suez. Another ship came with the same cargo, and then the inspectors came to approach the ship at 2 P.M. They said: OK, you wait till next morning. Next morning, they came on board the ship, and they couldn't inspect it because there were some bees on the ship. So they postponed it till he sprays insecticides against the bees and the flies. They came back again and it was mentioned that there is not enough light on it.

[Zalatimu] It's amazingly incredible difficult to set a schedule, for example, when the ships are coming or where they going.

[Al-Mahasinah] Here, I'm not talking biology. I'm not just mentioning bees and so on. The reason I want to tell you: If your legal cargo, that you are waiting for in Amman, is diverted or delayed because there is a bee on the ship that is not a reason. That's a very, very silly reason, and that's a harassment. That is not really justified technique. Mr. Wan mentioning simplifying, but it is not being simplified in the Tiran Straits. It is not being simplified for Jordan and its economy and survival.

[Zalatimu] I guess his majesty's statement yesterday underlined the importance of this issue for the Jordanian economy, and in fact, his majesty linked Jordan's participation in the peace talks with some sort of easing of the inspection and sanctions in al-'Aqabah.

Next, we move to the export side of this equation, Mr. 'Imad al-Shamma' from the Chamber of Industry is gravely affected as Jordanian exports. Sir.

[Al-Shamma'] Well, thank you very much, sir. Allow me first just to give you a brief idea about the Jordanian industry as a sector, and then I'll move on to the effect of what we talking about today.

Basically, we represent, as a Chamber of Industry, the industrial sector, which comprises about 18,000 companies and factories and firms and employs about 110,000 people. This is not the first time that the Chamber of Industry or the Jordanian officials raise the issue of the effect of Resolution 661 and the embargo or the ship searching on al-'Aqabah with officials, whether from the United States or visiting delegations.

We feel, as the Chamber of Industry, as Jordan as a whole, its economy has been targeted to a level of impoverishment. And we feel that Jordan as a result of this Security Council has suffered tremendously. As Mr. Qa'war has mentioned, and Dr. al-Mahasinah, we on both sides of the coin, on the import side and on the export side, suffered in the sense that our cost of imports has went up vis-a-vis that we have to pay about \$1,000 extra for every 40-foot containers that we import, and about \$500 for 20-foot container. And even on the export side, we have lost tremendously on the export side, because we are paying now about \$250 for every 20-foot container for export and about \$500 for a 40-foot container.

To make the problem even worse is finding the vessel. If I am saying that I don't need to export to Iraq and I'm looking for new markets in Europe or anywhere else, if I don't find a vessel to come and pick up my cargo, then I cannot export, I cannot compete. And if I have to pay an extra fee to put my container on a ship and to be searched by the military forces then that would add to my cost and to my competitiveness.

As you know, the Jordanian industry as a whole is of humanitarian needs; it is not of military type of industry. We are a converting industry. So, we do not believe why should we as Jordanian industrialists have to keep on convincing the United Nations and the Sanctions Committees that we don't export military to anywhere else in the world, and specifically to Iraq? Add to that, if the UN sanctions, according to a certain approval, it has granted to a certain product, as Mr. Jamal has mentioned, we do not see the reason why we should, every time we need to export the same product from the same company to the same market, why do we have to keep on asking for the same approval? We have mentioned to Mr. Wan that this would only add to his dilemma and problems because it would augment the demand on his services and the Sanction Committee services, whereby we have to keep on import applying for the same product from the same company to the same market. This as a whole, we feel, should be addressed in a very crucial manner, whereby we grant a blanket approval for that product for that company from a certain part of the world, especially Jordan. I have to emphasize another fact. It is that we are mixing two main issues here. It is that the sanction is a UN resolution while the inspection of the port is done on basis of the military forces or the allied forces that were there in the Gulf crisis. And we feel that the two are part and parcel of the whole crisis. The Jordanian industry has suffered tremendously. Many companies are closing down or reducing their staff. And as you see, Jordan is the hub of democratization, it is the hub of stability, thank God to his, you know, the vision, of his majesty the king. So, we feel with this sanctions and the search on our ports, whether on the import side or in the export side, is creating some sort of social instability. And this can affect not only Jordan, it would affect the whole region. Add on to top of that we know that Jordan is

going through the peace process now and we believe that you cannot have a stable peace if the people are poor and if they are not happy.

Basically all this becomes to one simple factor: We should have economic prosperity to develop our country in the sense to accommodate the peace process, or else we cannot compete.

[Zalatimu] Thank you. Talking about the Jordanian consumer, possibly the most in touch with the Jordanian consumer in this panel here this evening is the president of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, Mr. Muhammad 'Asfur. I'm sure you are particularly interested in commenting on Mr. Wan's theme.

['Asfur] Thank you, Zayd. I want to enter into a different line of direct but simple questions concerning the sanctions and the siege on Iraq. My first question, Mr. Wan, would be until when is Jordan to keep suffering and sacrificing the constants of free trade on false political grounds? All my questions are going to be interrelated, really. And on that pretense, how will the region enter a new phase of economic relations while Jordan cannot purchase its imports for the same prices available to other countries in the region? Where is the just formula in this political agenda? And also for my own education, I would like to know does the United Nations Resolution 661 concerning the siege on Iraq gives the upper hand to the United States to investigate ships loaded with goods or imports to Jordan? Is Jordan the target?

Will the U.S. really halt vessels carrying American exports to Jordan, in the same [way] it stops any other vessel, ship that has goods shipped to al-'Aqabah? What is the intention there? Is it to hurt Jordan more than it had been hurt as a result of the Gulf war? Are we trying to increase the percentage of unemployment? Are we trying to increase the percentage of people beyond the poverty line? What are we really trying to do within all these sanctions? And as a result Jordan is suffering? Thank you.

[Zalatimu] I think we'll keep the, we'll keep Mr. Wan's answers to the end. First, before we move to Mr. Wan, I would like to hear from Dr. al-Mumtaz, advisor to the minister of finance, who's with us today. If you have, I'm sure you have some comments Dr. al-Mumtaz.

[Al-Mumtaz] Thank you Zayd. It seems to me that nothing is left to me to talk about, but I have two comments. The first one relating to the mechanism of the Sanctions Committee. Now, I think that the mechanism is used especially when it comes to handling Jordan's requests to ship goods to Iraq is very slow. Now, this unanimous vote of the committee, you know, when you are dealing with human beings, you know, with sending humanitarian goods to Iraq and, you know, you leave it to the (?whim) of one person to block any decision of that committee. So, again, the consensus, you have to have consensus, is bothering me a lot. The other thing is limiting now, limiting the period of the, you

know, implementing the approval of a certain commodity for four months. Now, again, people are complaining about this in Jordan. You know, why don't leave it open as it used to be before?

Now, the other point. Now, wherever we go to present our case, the whole world now knows that we are abiding by the sanctions and also everybody will tell us: You know, look, you know, we understand your case. We are very sympathetic. But until now, no, and practically no, real support is provided to Jordan. Now we, the whole world knows, that we did take care of the evacuees who left Iraq and Kuwait and we took care of even, you know, some refugees all over the world. And now, in a country like Jordan, where democracy is flourishing, we have to take care of the concerns of our citizens in Jordan. Now, I have a quotation. I am quoting a report by Mr. Jean Ripert, who was then the director general for development and international economic cooperation at the United Nations who came here to Jordan in October and he wrote a report. In that report, I'm quoting him: The Security Council should take every effort to see that these embargo-related losses are compensated in full in order to avoid destabilizing the economy, etc., in Jordan.

Now, I think, you know, the world community should listen to us and concerning the citizens of Jordan, I think, you know, their patience is running thin and we expect, you know, the world community to respond to our concerns. Thank you.

[Q'awar] Can I interject here just on one point regarding the inspection which is relevant to this as this stems out from his majesty's remarks and declaration, is that Iraq is able to import anything it wants from any port around without the ships calling at those ports being inspected. This is very important to be a point, focal point.

[Zalatimu] So, I guess actually when the objective of the Sanctions Committee is to forbid things from entering Iraq, things are entering Iraq, and Jordan, in the final analysis, is paying the price for UN-imposed sanctions which have been insensitive to Jordan's economic, and political, and social needs.

[Al-Mahasinah] Other ports are flourishing on behalf of our port, which is unjustified. Plus, you must take in consideration that the reputation that Jordan made through the years of being a very moderate country, a country that believes in international decisions, international committees, it respects them all the time. Now, people think of Jordanians as maybe smugglers, contrabandists, and everything is concentrated on Jordan [words indistinct].

[Zalatimu] In reality, Jordan has become a model for Third World democratization and institutionalized democracy.

[Al-Mahasinah interjects] As Mr. al-Shamma' mentioned it.

[Zalatimu] I think you have, may be, 15 questions or so. I don't know if you've had a chance to look them over and see what... [changes thought] I'm sure some of them are interrelated, if you'd like to begin answering them. Hate to put you in the hot box, but that's the situation here in now.

[Wan] Thank you.

[Zalatimu] You're welcome.

[Wan] I can set on the sea. I have a lot of difficult questions to answer. First of all, I shall thank you for your statement and your comments. The points you raised in your statement are well taken and I'll certainly—can promise you—that I'll report your feelings, the feelings of the Jordanian people and your government and the business to the chairman of the Security Council Committee for consideration. Hopefully, something could be done in that area, but I cannot promise anything because the final decision rests with the 15 members of the committee, not with the Secretariat, from which I am from. We are providing secretarial service to the committee, not the policy makers, the decisionmakers. That is the first point I want to make.

Secondly, I can see our host, my host, has raised a number of very interesting questions. Some are of a general nature and some are more individualized. Let me address some of the questions one by one and if I omit anything or if you have any further questions, I'm always at your disposal.

Personally, I should say, I am keenly aware of the difficult plight, the difficult situation faced by Jordan, because, from the carry out of the Security Council resolution sanction regime. [sentence as heard] And I can assure you, gentlemen, that when that question was brought up to the committee for discussion, all the members of the committee expressed their great sympathy and also all the committee members recognize that Jordan had indeed been significantly affected by the sanctions regime established and Resolution 661, 1990. That is a fact I want to convey to you. At the same time, the committee members they're also concerned with a view of finding a way to address that issue although no consensus has been reached in that respect. I think Mr. al-Jamal is right. We have received thousands of applications from Jordanian businesses for export of various commodities to Iraq and I think I would be right to say that Jordan is one of our chief clients, or the main client, because about half of the applications are from Jordan. However, the committee has its own guiding lines as expressed in the very beginning, that we are operating on a non-objection basis which need the consensus of all 15 members to decide upon anything.

With regard to some of the points raised by Mr. al-Jamal, I would like to say when that question of discrimination was brought up to the committee for discussion, many members expressed the idea that the committee was conducting its business and is carrying out its mandate

on a non-discriminatory basis, considering each application submitted to the committee for its consideration and no objection procedure on its own merit and without any focus, without focusing its attention on the origin of the goods involved, [word indistinct] who is the requester.

[Zalatimu] If I could just interject, I understand as a recent case of some water purification system, something which Jordan applied to export to Iraq and I believe the Netherlands had applied to export the same item and for some reason the exporter from the Netherlands was given permission and the one from Jordan was not. I do not know if you are aware of this most recent occurrence.

[Wan] I'm well aware of that. I just want to give you, gentlemen, some explanations how we work. I'm not commenting on any of the comments of member individual member states. His excellency the prime minister of Jordan, when he visited New York, he presented a statement to the committee and he also raised that example you raised. It's true that the committee did approve a request from Netherlands for—if my memory is right—about 2,000 tonnes of chemical materials for water treatment premises. At the same time, we have received dozens of requests along that line. Most of them are either rejected or put on hold and that is a case which has been approved because some members can see they include or they have enough information about the end use and end user and other relevant information concerning the issue. That was approved indeed. In the case of Jordanian applications, we received a number of them. Most of them are still (?shelved) on hold, not rejected outright because the committee members, some of them at least, are wishing to have further information concerning the request. That explained why. You see there could be similar requests, but because of the abundance or the absence of further information regarding certain aspect of the request, that also affect the decision of some members.

[Zalatimu] If my memory serves me correctly, I believe this particular incident, I believe you, sir, resubmitted the application providing full details. I mean the application of Netherlands and the application of Jordan were almost identical in the information they contain, and yet, you know, the outcome was to grant permission to Netherlands.

[Wan] Yes, indeed. Sometimes, you may provide further informations in that regard. But, it's up to the judgment of members to decide whether they are satisfactory or not. That's why I would say although they're of a similar or identical nature the applications, but, because of the information pertaining to the goods contained in that request that are really matters. Sometimes of crucial importance to determine whether that application met with the approval of the committee.

[Zalatimu] It seems to me that comes down to a technicality. I mean, what seems to me to be more important than some technicality in an application is the fact that

Jordan has suffered greatly because of the sanctions and the embargo imposed on Iraq. And that seems to be much more important than, you know, a few missing words in an application. And it seems that the committee should consider the fact and the position of the Jordanian economy vis-a-vis this crisis, and not deny applications on the basis of you minor technicalities. I mean it is very hard for us as Jordanians to understand why we are not given permission to export, as you say, based on the technicalities.

[Wan] I'll certainly convey what you said to the committee members. What I want to stress in this respect is that if the requester provide enough information regarding that particular request they have a better chance to be considered by the committee. That's why when the chairman wrote to the permanent representative of Jordan to the United Nations, he said that it would be a greatly helpful if fully detail information about the relevant product and end user and the general circumstances related to the export is included on the application form when it is initially submitted for the consideration of the committee.

[Zalatimu] Thank you gentlemen, and good evening.

Minister Claims 'Political Purpose'

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[By STAR staff writer Osama al-Sharif]

[Text] Minister of Finance Mr. Sami Qammuh said that the prolonging of the UN enforced embargo on al-'Aqabah is a form of "pressure on Jordan for a political purpose" and that this will not be accepted by Jordan. He said interception and inspection of al-'Aqabah-bound vessels has increased over the last few weeks, and that it is time that this "intervention" in Jordanian affairs be stopped.

"We never agreed or accepted these practices since the beginning," he said.

His Majesty King Husayn told ambassadors of the five permanent members to the Security Council on Monday [28 March] that Jordan's resumption of its role in the peace process is conditional to an immediate resolution of the siege enforced on al-'Aqabah.

In an interview with THE STAR this week, Mr. Qammuh said the interception and inspection of vessels coming to al-'Aqabah by U.S.- led ships in the Red Sea "is in contradiction with international law and with the UN Charter." He added that the naval act is not supported by any UN resolution and has no legal warrant.

"We have informed the Security Council Sanctions Committee (of Jordanian grievances) and the Prime Minister visited New York and addressed this committee and submitted detailed reports about the practices and the losses Jordan had been incurring due to the interception of vessels and the embargo against Iraq and

we are still waiting for a response," Mr. Qammuh said. "No less than 12 documents have been sent (to the UN), and we received lots of promises but we have not seen implementation of these promises."

The minister reiterated Jordanian demands for compensations to the losses incurred by the Jordanian economy as a direct result of the embargo. "The losses amount to more than \$1.3 billion and with the heavy burden Jordan is shouldering this additional burden will aggravate an already difficult financial situation," Mr. Qammuh said.

Since the naval blockade was enforced in 1990, over 1700 commercial vessels were inspected by naval forces positioned at the Straits of Tiran. "They were inspected, rerouted, but none was found to be carrying irregular or unacceptable cargo," Mr. Qammuh said.

He added that Jordan has accepted an interim arrangement of "an independent, international, nonprofit organization to check on shore cargo coming to al-'Aqabah because we wanted to cooperate with the Sanctions Committee." But he pointed that even such an arrangement does not apply to any of the countries bordering Iraq.

"We have been acting in good faith and we are committed to our international responsibilities," the minister said. "We expect other parties to be equally committed and equally fair in treating and handling the problems concerning the peace process."

Columnist: 'No to U.S. Blockade'

JN3103182594 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Mar 94 p 2

["Issue and Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "No to U.S. Blockade"]

[Text] In the first American reaction to His Majesty King Husayn's remarks about the U.S. blockade of Jordan, a State Department spokesman said his country will likely reconsider its approach rather than lift the siege altogether.

It would seem our information minister does not mind our ships being inspected at the Port of al-'Aqabah instead of the Suez Canal or further out at sea. At his news conference, Jawad al-'Anani simply criticized the checking procedure itself.

Inspection of the ships at the Port of al-'Aqabah is a blockade, pure and simple. Is there any reason the blockade should remain???? And what justification is there to inspect incoming ships carrying goods intended for Jordan???

By way of justifying the blockade of al-'Aqabah Port, the pressure being applied on Jordan, the extreme inconveniences it is experiencing, and the high cost to Jordan's national economy, the U.S. Administration argues that it wants to ensure that the goods aboard incoming ships do not find their way to blockaded Iraq. If that is the

intention, why are the ships bound for Iran and Turkey—both with borders with Iraq— not subjected to the same routine???

We are aware that the U.S. Administration encourages trade between Turkey and Iraq as a reward for Turkey's shameful stand in the second Gulf war. We are also aware that Washington, grateful for Iran's stance during the 30-state aggression, avoids even a mere reference to Iraqi-Iranian relations.

The U.S. Administration is keen not to provoke Iran at this stage lest it lurch into the anti-American camp.

It is possible, then, that there are reasons and pretexts other than those advanced by the U.S. Administration to explain its unfair blockade of Jordan.

His Majesty King Husayn, acknowledged for his foresight, has exposed the intentions harbored by the U.S. Administration against Jordan.

To quote his majesty, the United States wishes to press Jordan into signing a unilateral and immediate peace treaty with Israel even before the border dispute or such issues as occupied Jordanian territory and misappropriated Jordanian waters are sorted out. The U.S. Administration wants to see Jordan lead the way for the Arabs in the matter of ending the Arab boycott of Israel.

Seeing that Jordan is not about to oblige Washington on these Israeli-inspired demands, the U.S. Administration is attempting to twist Jordan's arms and force it down on its knees.

It is an exercise in self-delusion for the U.S. Administration to think that Jordan, with its limited resources as they are, will go down on its knees and abandon its occupied territory, water, and stolen rights. Endowed with such leadership as the Hashemites, Jordan will kneel only to God.

The U.S. Administration is denying Jordan its peace-making and stabilizing role in the Middle East. However, let it be known that, limited resources notwithstanding, Jordan can still play havoc with the peace process and neutralize or even end the U.S. role in it. With America's Israeli bias now absolute and hostility toward the Arab nation undisguised, Jordan's stand is all the more understandable.

The Palestinian leadership may have been ensnared by the U.S. Administration into the Oslo, Cairo, and Davos agreements—by all standards unilateral and unfair. Jordan, however, will not be coerced into accepting anything that falls short of its satisfaction or that of future Jordanian, Arab, and Muslim generations.

Let it be known by the U.S. Administration that, as far as a peace treaty with Israel is concerned, Jordan will synchronize its moves with Syria and Lebanon. For us, peace has to be comprehensive, based on UN resolutions and an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, or it can wait. And, just for the

record, certain Gulf oil states, while maintaining a boycott of Jordan and building bridges with Israel, are doing so at the behest of the United States.

Paper Sees Talks Linkage

JN0104073294 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Apr 94 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Will Washington Lift The Siege on Jordan During April?"]

[Text] Since the negotiations on the Jordanian and other tracks are scheduled to resume in April, the U.S. Administration must reconsider its siege of Jordan. This is especially true because His Majesty King Husayn linked Jordan's participation in the negotiations with the lifting of the siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah.

It is true that President Bill Clinton yesterday affirmed that the negotiations on the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks will resume in April as scheduled. However, it is also true that the continuation of the U.S. siege of the Port of al-'Aqabah will obstruct the resumption of the negotiations on the Jordanian track.

U.S. Secretary of State Christopher promised to take measures to assist Jordan in facing the siege. However, the U.S. stand on the siege has yet to change. This U.S. stand needs to be seriously reconsidered in a way that is in keeping with Jordan's seriousness about stopping negotiations if the siege continues. In other words, the U.S. Administration should respect Jordan's interests and stop trying to harm its economy and trade by continuing the unjust siege. The U.S. Administration should realize that Jordan will not submit to unjustified pressures and harassments.

The U.S. Administration should review its recent stand on the identity of Jerusalem and should not disavow its Arabism. It should appreciate His Majesty King Husayn's historic concern about the Arabism of Jerusalem. This is especially so since all the Security Council resolutions on which the peace process is based stipulate that Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Arab territories.

Moreover, Israel's decision to annex Arab Jerusalem is unrecognized by legitimate international bodies, led by the Security Council itself.

The U.S. Administration is fully aware of the burdens Jordan has been shouldering as a result of the Gulf crisis and the serious economic and social losses it has been suffering on all levels.

However, instead of compensating Jordan for its large losses, the U.S. Administration continued the siege, with the intention of causing more harm to its economy and trade. The U.S. Administration is doing this in an attempt to force Jordan to abandon the constants of its principled stands.

French Envoy on Iraqi Sanctions

JN3103141894 Amman THE STAR in English 31 Mar-6 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] France is pushing for a United Nation's resolution regarding the easing of sanctions on the Gulf of Aqaba, the French Ambassador in Amman Mr. Bernard Bajolet told THE STAR's Hamdan al-Haj on Wednesday [30 March]. He said that France is only interested in seeing sanctions work against Iraq, and not in creating hardships for Jordan. He added that "Jordan's suggestion of allowing UN inspection of ships only once they reached shore and not on the high seas was very reasonable," and that "France along with its European partners are taking the Jordanian suggestion very seriously and presently discussing it." The ambassador said the French navy is participating in UN inspection of ships heading for Aqaba along with the Americans.

Daily Reiterates Stand on Jerusalem

JN3103102394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 Mar 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "A Reaffirmation of the Jordanian Stand"]

[Text] Jordan's clear and brave stand on the Gulf of Aqaba siege issue, expressed by His Majesty King Husayn to the ambassadors of the five permanent Security Council states, continues to echo in the Jordanian arena and in the Arab and international arenas, as well. His majesty the leader linked the resumption of Jordan's role in the peace process to ending search operations and harassment by warships in the Red Sea.

Jordan's concern about its independence and dignity and about exercising its full sovereignty is not any less than its concern about achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region—a peace that provides stability and is conducive to growth, progress, and development for all the people in the region.

Yesterday, King Husayn reiterated the historic role Jordan has been playing during the past decades in terms of defending the Palestinian Arab people's rights to restoring their territories and to wrenching their right to self-determination. During his meeting with the Palestinian president's envoy, his majesty expressed Jordan's adherence to the Arab right to protect the holy places and to Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem.

The Palestinian president's envoy hailed His Majesty King Husayn's role in maintaining the Arabism of Jerusalem and its holy places. He appreciated Jordan's stand toward the Palestinian cause, people, and their fate. This blocks the road of anyone trying to cast doubts on the Arabism of the holy city and the right to sovereignty over it and on Jordan's decisive and clear stand on the religious, historic, geographic, and physical aspects of Jerusalem. One is wrong to think that Jordan will allow a claim of sovereignty over Jerusalem by anyone other than almighty God. The fact that Jordan and its Hashemite leadership have adopted the caring, protection,

and maintenance of the holy places throughout all these decades does not leave room for anyone to harbor bad or good intentions.

In any case, Jordan will continue to shoulder the Arab and Palestinian concern. Despite the difficulties and challenges it faced, Jordan will continue to be the Hashemite Arab fortress that does not relinquish a single right or give up any of its principled national and pan-Arab stands on the issue of Palestine; on issues of harassment, siege, and inspection; and on various pressures exerted on it. Jordan is a free and independent homeland with its own mission. Its sons have their own ambitions and hopes of keeping their homeland impregnable and their people free and lofty.

Visiting Danish Delegation Briefed on Issues

Foreign Minister on al-'Aqaba

JN3003143694 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Minister of State of Foreign Affairs Mr. Talal al-Hasan has conferred with the Danish delegation [of the Foreign Policy Association in Denmark which is currently visiting Jordan]. The minister explained the efforts Jordan is making under the leadership of his majesty the king to advance the peace process in the region and to achieve just, durable, and comprehensive peace in accordance with the international legitimacy, represented in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said this is also based on the principle of bartering land for peace, as well as safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian Arab people on their national soil. It is also based on safeguarding Jordan's rights as far as land, water, security, and the resolution of the refugee problem.

The minister said the blockade imposed on the Gulf of Aqaba is leaving a negative impact on the Jordanian economy. He said his majesty the king is making persistent efforts to secure the lifting of the blockade. These efforts included a meeting between his majesty and the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council. His majesty told the ambassadors that this question should be dealt with as quickly as possible, and that there is no justification for this blockade, particularly that Jordan has been constructively cooperating with the peace efforts in the region.

Mr. al-Hasan said that the massacre committed by Jewish settlers in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron has undermined the peace process in the region. He added that the international community should shoulder its responsibilities to prevent the recurrence of such a crime and to secure the necessary protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Mr. al-Hasan pointed out that the Israeli settlements are dangerous to the peace process and should be removed, and the Israeli occupation should be ended if we were to achieve just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the

region. Mr. al-Hasan commended the good relations existing between Jordan and Denmark in all fields, pointing in particular to the relationship of friendship and mutual respect that exist between His Majesty King Husayn and the monarch of Denmark.

The Danish guests said they were very appreciative of the great role Jordan is playing in giving momentum to the Middle East peace process and achieving peace, security, and stability in the region.

The meeting was attended by the Danish ambassador in Amman and the honorary consul of Denmark in Amman.

Prime Minister on Peace Stand

JN3003185794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said that a solution to the Middle East problem must be comprehensive, prevail throughout in the entire region, and include all parties. He added that this solution must not be a divided or a phased one. He stressed that the main topic on the Jordanian track is represented by restoring the occupied Jordanian territory, whose area is more than 350 km square, in addition to restoring Jordan's share of water, which was seized by Israel in the late fifties and in the early sixties, as well as the major part of the al-Yarmuk River water which it seized.

Addressing a delegation of the Foreign Policy Association in Denmark, the prime minister added that when it addresses the issue of peace, Jordan is not thinking of war, and that Jordan has joined the peace process out of its awareness of the importance of peace, which should provide gains for all parties, whether these gains are material or moral, immediate or deferred ones.

Dr. al-Majali reviewed the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the changes in the region and the world after the end of the Cold War, as well as the spread of new concepts in the world, which have introduced changes in the strategies of the United States and the Arabs. However, Israel took some time to adapt to the new situation away from the concepts of war, he added.

He said: The process of change and the time required for this has been exhausted by Israel. The prime minister also reviewed Jordan's efforts to guarantee the Palestinians' participation in the peace talks, and to provide them with an umbrella through the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. He also touched on the obstacles Jordan has faced, beginning with the Jordanian-Israeli talks, and ending with the signing of the joint agenda, which included basic elements defining the objective of the negotiations; namely, the realization of a lasting and comprehensive peace, as well as the pillars of building mutual confidence in the future.

Answering a question, the prime minister said: We cannot talk about the establishment of regional cooperative institutions before achieving peace. This is in order

to avert the occurrence of problems in the future, taking into consideration that the original problem of the Middle East situation lies in the fact that Israelis have the land, while the Palestinians do not have it.

Answering another question, he said: The refugees issue constitutes the biggest price Jordan has had to pay for peace since 1950 when the Palestinians decided to unite with

Jordan to establish one state, something which was exploited by the Israelis. Jordan's stand toward this can be summed up by the fact that everyone who lives here is a Jordanian citizen whose political rights in his mother homeland are safeguarded as agreed upon in the 1950 unity agreement. This is one of the reasons that most of the refugees are still living in camps.

Buwayz on Cairo Talks, Christopher Visit

NC3103143794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1300 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by an unidentified NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Beirut on 31 March—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] How would you describe the current situation in the peace process? Is it true that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit Lebanon?

[Buwayz] The latest round of [Arab-Israeli] negotiations, undoubtedly, was somewhat deadlocked. Mr. Christopher's upcoming visit to the region is supposed to get things going by securing some points to encourage the resumption of the negotiations. Anyway, I believe that progress on the Palestinian track would push forward the other topics on the agenda of the negotiations.

[Correspondent] Will Lebanon demand that Christopher visit it within his tour?

[Buwayz] We do not demand; we welcome anyone who visits Lebanon or deals with it as it should be dealt with.

[Correspondent] How do you explain what was achieved between the Palestinians and the Israelis in Cairo today? Does this mean the beginning of progress on the Gaza-Jericho track?

[Buwayz] The Gaza-Jericho agreement, naturally, had some weak points. Any action that will in one way or another fill this vacuum and satisfy the Palestinians will be welcome. So far, I believe that only the incorporation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement into a comprehensive peace process can cover this agreement in the best way.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, how is Lebanese diplomacy handling the current Israeli acts of aggression against the south?

[Buwayz] Lebanon and Israel have been in a state of crisis for a long time. This crisis has not at any point stopped progress in the Middle East talks. Just as Israel did not stop its repeated aggressions, Lebanon conceded neither its right to confront and resist the aggression nor its right to use all political and diplomatic means to confront it.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, as regards media, the public is under the impression that it should (?wait), and the Chamber of Deputies was inclined to ask the government to suspend its decision [on banning news programs on private radios] until the media law is issued. What do you think?

[Buwayz] I clearly and realistically believe that it is necessary to think of democracy and freedom on one hand, and security and stability on the other, and take the requirements of both into consideration. Talking about returning the media to the old situation; that is, the return of more than 50 television stations and more

than 100 radio stations is impossible for any country, no matter how much democracy and freedom it has, to tolerate and accept. But I also believe that talking about one official station and closing the door to the development of media—and they actually have developed over the past 20 years—when a number of Stalinist countries have renounced Stalinism, may be wrong. We need to lay down a framework to reshuffle all these broadcasting stations so that we can find a number acceptable to Lebanon's security and order and satisfying the Lebanese people's ambitions for democracy and freedom. I believe that four or five television stations and four or five radio stations—controlled by the valid laws on sectarian sedition, insults to Lebanese or foreign officials, and provocation of the sentiments of the public—may be a realistic solution that reconciles Lebanon's democracy, which has always been an integral part of the Lebanese situation and entity, and security requirements. We cannot ignore the fact that Lebanon is living on a sensitive Middle East volcano and cannot tolerate disorder, which no democratic country allows.

Buwayz Links Church Bombing to Hebron Massacre

NC0104070494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT
1 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stressed that the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church was committed after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre to divert international attention away from the massacre.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM published today, the Lebanese foreign minister said that a number of people have been arrested for the church bombing. These people revealed that they have connections to Israeli officers and had obtained instructions, funds, and equipment that enabled them to assemble the explosive device, Buwayz added.

Buwayz maintained that it is not possible to terminate the resistance before obtaining assurances that south Lebanon will return to Lebanon because the resistance is not the reason for the Israeli occupation but a result of it.

Responding to a question on the Middle East market, the Lebanese foreign minister said: Any concept of future regional relations must be based on the dimensions of peace.

Defense Minister Comments

NC3103190394 London MBC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said that the bomb that exploded in the Sayyidat al-Najat Church and killed 11 people last month was made at the headquarters of the banned Lebanese Forces militia in the presence of Fu'ad Malik, senior aide to Samir Ja'ja'.

In an interview with MBC, Dallul said that he believes that the objective behind the explosion was to create sedition in the country. He added:

[Begin Dallul recording] The measures taken by the government were correct. From the security aspect, there was a coup attempt in every sense of the word, an attempt that served the Israeli enemy. There were attempts to undermine the homeland. What happened was very serious and it is up to the judiciary to decide on it. [end recording]

Syrian Forces Hand Over 11 Demonstrators to Army

NC3103195594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] In response to the public military prosecution's warrant dated 15 March 1994 concerning the arrest of those who took part in the armed demonstration in Ba'labakk on 11 March 1994, the intelligence group of the Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon has handed over 11 wanted men to the Intelligence Directorate of the Army

Command. The military prosecution referred them to Beirut, and the competent authorities are tracking down the other wanted men. Those remanded are: Husayn Hasan 'Ubayd, Ja'far Salman al-Hilu, As'ad Muhammad 'Ubayd, Musa Muhammad Saqr, Hasan Muhammad al-Sammaqah, Radwan Shihadah Amhaz, Yunus Husayn Wahbah, Shawkat Mustafa Wahbah, 'Ali 'Atif Wahbah, Samih Mustafa Midhij, and Hatim al-Sadiq Sharaf-al-Din.

Three Reportedly Killed in Amal Attack on Patrol

NC3103170094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] The Amal Movement's operations room in the south has issued a statement saying that one of its units detonated an explosive device near an Israeli enemy and agent [South Lebanese Army] mechanized patrol on the Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun road at 1250 today. A half-track vehicle was completely destroyed and three personnel inside it were killed. Another unit attacked the same patrol with rockets and machine guns. The clash with the patrol lasted 15 minutes.

Paper Views Christopher Statement on Mideast Tour

JN3103100494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Before It Is Too Late," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on developments in the peace process, and Israel's procrastination and maneuvering, which aim to create additional excuses for evading the requirements of peace and derail the peace process. The paper says: Now that there is renewed talk of the possible resumption of the peace talks, Israel has demonstrated an enthusiastic excitement about the peace process. While focusing its attention on the implementation of the Gaza- Jericho accord, which yielded countless advantages in its favor, Israel seeks to play games on the other tracks of the negotiations. Israel reaped the fruits of games with the Palestinians when it concluded the Oslo accord with them. This is because this accord contains serious and secret loopholes that allowed Israel to pounce upon the Palestinians, who departed from the overall inter-Arab coordination regarding the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel is certain that it cannot ensnare any other Arab side by making it depart from the Arab consensus regarding the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Nonetheless, it has continued to make desperate attempts in this regard. If anything, this policy indicates that Israel is not concerned with just, comprehensive, and durable peace. This is because such peace is the antithesis of the expansionist Israeli scheme and its Zionist objectives, which aim to achieve a version of peace that allows Israel to have peace, and, at the same time, retain its control over the territories.

The paper adds that Israel is only interested in the benefits it can draw from the peace process, particularly since it has continued to evade any discussion of substantive issues in the bilateral talks, namely, the issues of occupation and withdrawal.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: The solution, as all observers believe, lies in activating the role of the United States as a full partner that should honor its pledges and commitments, particularly since it is the party that launched the peace initiative in the first place. Otherwise, the peace process will be jeopardized, and the region will remain vulnerable to worst case scenarios.

Under the headline "Israel's Crimes Before the International Community," the newspaper AL-BATH says: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has reiterated his willingness to make a fresh tour of the region to activate the peace process, without committing himself to a forceful role in efforts to address the Arab-Israeli conflict. It was no coincidence that Christopher's offer came in the aftermath of Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and amidst the thunder of bullets that kill and wound scores of Palestinians of the occupied Arab

territories every day. That is why he has absolved himself of any undertaking to play a forceful role. He is well aware that progress in the peace process is now contingent upon the Israeli stand, which seeks to obstruct the regional peace process.

The paper believes that Israel aims to encircle the new peace opportunity that could be created if the peace talks are resumed in Washington. The paper notes that in addition to political maneuvering and foot-dragging, Israel has begun to carry out a series of successive massacres that started with the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. This series of massacres is continuing. Israel is now covering up its massacres with fresh ones, as manifested in the Sayyidat al-Najat Church blast in Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH adds: By so doing, the Rabin government seeks to distract those concerned with the peace process. It wants to prompt them to address the new problems it is creating. Nobody will be taken in by this policy, which has been stepped up recently, particularly in the aftermath of the Geneva summit. It is difficult for the Rabin government, regardless of the tactics it is employing, to influence the course of the peace negotiations, or to derail them.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: International efforts to advance the peace process and resume the Washington negotiations have become extremely necessary to end regional tension and halt the Israeli anti-Arab terrorism, repression, and massacres.

Article Questions 'Arafat Identity, Leadership

JN0104103294 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 Mar 94 p 10

[Article by Naji 'Allush, leader of the Arab Popular Liberation Movement: "Season for Questions About Yasir 'Arafat"]

[Text] This year, Arabs in general, and Palestinians in particular, are asking more and more questions about 'Arafat's identity. The questions involve his name, family, his true ties to Palestine, etc.

Why are these questions being raised now? Why weren't they asked on such a large scale when 'Arafat experienced a meteoric rise to fame against the backdrop of armed struggle?

These questions are definitely the result of skepticism. The "rebel" who sparked off armed resistance in 1965 is now a would-be "governor". The identity of a "rebel" lies in his rifle. A rebel can also lead others while he remains in caves and hideouts and walks the streets wearing a mask. However, a ruler cannot rule wearing a mask and cannot become a head of state without revealing his identity.

The Arabs of Palestine, just like all other Arabs, care a great deal about knowing people and their background,

even if this means little to them. Faced with such questions, what will 'Arafat do?

Press and radio reporters have tried to ask Yasir 'Arafat where he was born. He avoided their questions. Television reporters have persistently asked 'Arafat to tell viewers about Jerusalem, his birthplace, and about the playground of his childhood. He refused. When pressed, however, he said: "I was born in the al-Aqsa Mosque." A witty person commented: It seems Mr. 'Arafat does not know that the al-Aqsa Mosque has no hospital. Also, women do not usually give birth during prayer.

The "rebel" has turned into a would-be "governor". The people want to have an idea about their new ruler, who has now abandoned the assumed role of liberating rebel and agreed to supervise a process of liquidation.

What has 'Arafat got to tell those people? How will he reply to their persistent questions? He cannot now refuse to answer, as he did in the past on the pretext of security and secrecy.

He will say: My real name is Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Qudwah. The majority will be surprised.

Where was your father born? Where did he die? Where was your grandfather born? Where did he die?

My father was born in Cairo. He also died in Cairo. My grandfather died in Cairo. That is all.

Do you have a family home in Palestine?

No, we were not like all the other Palestinians who had a home and planted trees. Besides, Salah-al-Din did not have a house in Palestine.

How do you consider yourself a Palestinian according to the law of the Palestine National Council [PNC], when you do not have well-known Palestinian parents? Why did you deny Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, membership in the PNC because he does not have Palestinian parents, even though his father's birthplace is known? Hawatimah's birthplace is known. Hawatimah has been leading a Palestinian faction since 1968. Why did you foment a parochial Palestinian approach driving the people who advocated your leadership to consider Palestine an entity that differs from the rest of the Arab homeland; to say that the Palestinians descend from non-Arab Kanaanites; to say that Palestine, the West Bank and Gaza, should be a state; that..., that..., that..., and that the Palestinian identity should be asserted before the Arab identity, so that it can merge with the Zionist identity?

It is true that Salah-al-Din did not have a house in Palestine. However, he went to Palestine to liberate it and not to become a mayor under occupation.

The man who came to us from Egypt and who lived in Egypt, along with his father and grandfather, also does not bear Egyptian nationality. He would not tell us where

he came from, how he became Palestinian, and why did he not become an Egyptian, like all others who lived in Egypt late last century. If we go to Jablah, we will find the roots of the al-Qassam family, who was martyred in Palestine in 1963.

If we go to Homs, we will find the roots of the family of Sa'id al-'As, who was martyred near Hebron in 1937. Where can we find the roots of the man who lives amongst us and plans to go back to Gaza-Jericho as a ruler under occupation?

The people asking this question will go to Jerusalem and Amman and will not find an answer because the experts in family trees and city and village dwellers know nothing about 'Arafat, nor about 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Qudwah. Bi'r Zayt Mayor Tawfiq Ibrahim al-Kaylah asked me in 1978 in Baghdad: Do you know where Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] comes from? I replied: Why? He said: We, the mayors of the West Bank and Gaza, got together and none of us knew anything about 'Arafat, his father, grandfather, or house. I told him: You will not find anything of this, because his father and grandfather were not born in Palestine, nor lived there. His father visited Jerusalem in the 1920's and married a woman from Jerusalem, and this is the secret of 'Arafat's affinity with Palestine, as people in the know say. 'Arafat has led the Palestinians to Gaza-Jericho after wresting leadership in the name of armed struggle and full liberation. He reduced this liberation into a state, then into representation, and then into Gaza-Jericho. No one knows where he will end up.

The Palestinians, together with the Arab masses, should ask: How did this change happen? In whose interest is it? Why did the factions fail to know the person who was leading them and the PLO since 1968, in accordance with his program, until we reached the Gaza-Jericho accord? As it has become necessary now to know the person who will become a ruler, it is necessary to know his program well before he, together with his followers, become the authority that liquidates the cause and turns the Palestinian municipal system into an alternative to liberation and the cause. However, why are these questions raised now?

We believe there are many reasons, and the most prominent are the following:

First: The Gaza-Jericho accord prompted people to ask: Where did the man who agreed to something that was never previously accepted by any Palestinian leadership come from? Who is this person, who carried the gun in the name of liberation, to lead his supporters and opponents to the liquidation of the cause?

Second: 'Arafat's competitors from the West Bank and Gaza, who exploited his move toward the settlement, are working to replace him now that he has played the role they could not play. They are the alternatives who want to rule. Therefore, sons of famous families, who agreed to play a limited role under the power of resistance, are

now trying to show that their origins are more deeply rooted than those of the president.

Third: Many people want to know the personality of the coming ruler, because the identity of this ruler is not known like that of Faysal al-Husayni, Sirri Nusaybah, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and others. This makes people ask many questions.

Fourth: His aides, who agreed to play secondary roles in the past, now want to play greater roles, to have positions in the future. Those people are encouraged by Arab and foreign quarters that seek to implement the Gaza-Jericho accord in accordance with the set plans. What will 'Arafat say in response to questions about his identity? What will he answer regarding his program, which was exposed by the Gaza-Jericho accord?

The secret is in the official quarters in Cairo that sent 'Arafat to become the chairman of the PLO instead of al-Shuqayri [former PLO chairman], that has taken care of him throughout all these years, which sent him to Gaza-Jericho, and which is still planning for him and looking after his march.

However, the answers to the questions might come from Tel Aviv and Washington, or from any other place. 'Arafat, who does not know the Palestinian people, will face many difficulties. The first: How can he govern while his identity and program are still unknown, although he led the resistance with an unknown identity and program? Resistance is one thing, governing is something else. The secret, however, will become more ambiguous if the ruler leaves before stepping on the land of Palestine, when other well-known leaders appear.

The bitter fact, however, will remain, whether or not the man stays, and whether or not the secret is revealed. How did 'Arafat lead committees, councils, and masses that did not know him? How was he able all this time to hide the reality of his program, which is more important than his identity and origin? We admit he is smart and others are naive, although the man was exposed by his personality and acts, although his course was not revolutionary, his experience not that of a leader, his bravery not real, and although he did not enjoy any of the skills that qualify him to be a leader. All this was known by all those who dealt with him inside and outside the PLO. What is not known about him was not hidden from those who wanted to know and who refused to place their fate in the hands of unknown persons.

Despite all this, some factions supported him while others opposed him in a way that strengthened his position. The whole Arab order supported him. Although the Arab order differed with him, it wanted him to stay and to expeditiously impose his full authority over the Palestinians. Now that he has led the resistance, the PLO, and the Palestinians to the Gaza-Jericho accord, his identity and program must be known so that despair will make people see no other savior except him. [as published]

As people such as 'Adnan al-Yasin [Palestinian security official arrested in Tunis for collaboration with the Mosad] have been exposed, other people will be exposed in the coming days, months, and years.

In brief, 'Arafat has hidden behind the liberation program in order to hide his identity and his program, in order to lead the Palestine question to its present situation. He has strengthened and protected himself by the capitulation of the Arab order and by American arrogance. Now that he has revealed his program, he does not care if his identity is revealed as long as he is protected by the force of the international order.

Topics for al-Asad Tehran Visit Noted

PM3103143594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Mar 94 p4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Al-Asad To Visit Iran Next Month and Might Mediate Between It and Algeria"]

[Text] Damascus—Syrian political sources have announced that President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Iran for summit talks with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on international, regional, Islamic, and Arab issues.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the visit will take place in the second half of next April. They said that the meeting will be of some importance at Arab and international levels in view of the international changes and their effect on the region and also because of the peace process and its possible results.

The sources added that the Syrian-Iranian summit will also cover the Geneva summit results and President Hafiz al-Asad's talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton on peace affairs and the region, the Gulf, the situation in Iran, and Iran's relations with other states. They said that al-Asad might mediate between Iran and Algeria in an attempt to improve relations. Syrian-Iranian relations are believed to be strategic. They have been allies with special ties characterized by depth and continuity. Iran realizes to what extent these constant relations with Syria have enhanced Iran's relations with the Arab world and especially the Gulf states. President al-Asad's clear pan-Arab policies have succeeded in settling more than one dispute between Arab states and Iran, including the dispute with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] over the three islands and problems in Iran's relations with some Arab states such as Egypt and Algeria. The sources said that President al-Asad will convey to President Rafsanjani Egypt's desire to eliminate the obstacles standing in the way of the improvement of its relations with Iran.

The sources further said that the al-Asad-Rafsanjani summit agenda will be full of topical issues, especially regional, Islamic, and international issues, extraordinary developments affecting these issues, and other matters of mutual interest, in addition to the situation in the Gulf, Lebanon, the Palestinian question, and the effects of the

separate Palestinian-Israeli agreements on the peace process. On the situation in southern Lebanon, the Syrian and Iranian sides will reaffirm continued support for the Islamic and national resistance for the expulsion of the Israeli forces and the liberation of the south.

The summit talks will cover the situation in Iraq and the position of the Kurds, particularly in view of the recent change in that position. Iran is worried about the main Kurdish parties in the region, especially those which have close links with the West. Iran and Syria have emphasized in past joint statements that what happens in Iraq is an internal affair and something for the Iraqi people to resolve. The two sides will also review Arab-Turkish relations and the tense situation in the Kurdish areas of Turkey.

President Rafsanjani has stressed that Iran and Syria are opposed to any violation of Iraqi territorial integrity and Palestinian rights.

This will be al-Asad's second visit of its kind to Iran. He visited Tehran in September 1990.

President Rafsanjani paid his first visit to Syria as Iranian president in April 1991. He held talks described at the time as very successful.

Political observers believe that Syria's participation in the peace negotiations with Israel, which Iran strongly opposes, has not resulted in any Syrian-Iranian misunderstanding and that Iran's position on this is that it is a matter related to Syria's views on the issues of peace and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati has stated that his country would not have a dispute with such states as Syria, with whom it enjoys solid and close relations, over the question of peace agreement. Iran believes that Damascus is coming under massive pressure to sign a peace agreement with Israel, and Iran has told Syria that it is opposed to such an agreement and to anything to do with peace with Israel.

President al-Asad has said that both countries share the same views on Lebanon and both have long supported Lebanon's unity.

Syrian sources say that President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Tehran will further enhance Syrian-Iranian relations and raise them to a more special level, particularly in economic and cultural fields.

Press Examines Events Related to Peace Talks

JN2903085494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Bases of the Resumption of the Peace Process," AL-BA'TH says: Since the convocation of the Madrid conference, Israel has been involved in feverish attempts to circumvent the peace

process, render it void of any content, and divert it from its main target, which is a just, comprehensive peace.

The paper continues: However, those Israeli efforts ended in total failure because of Syria's adherence to a firm pan-Arab position insisting on the basic principles of the peace process, particularly the relevant UN resolutions, the land-for-peace formula, and rejection of any relinquishment of any Arab rights.

Stressing the need for Arab coordination, cooperation, and integration regarding the peace process, the paper warns against separate deals and their results, which obstruct the peace process and lead it into a maze that gives Israel a chance to undermine the Palestine question and achieve gains at the expense of the Arab nation's cause, interests, and pan-Arab security.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH stresses that any resumption of the peace talks requires the United States, as the sponsor of the peace process, to play the role that it is supposed to play to make that process successful and lead it to its desired objectives.

Under the headline "The Evil Plans," TISHRIN says: It has been revealed that Israel had a role in the explosions which took place in Lebanon and which targeted houses of worship and cultural, party, and political institutions. Lebanese sources have declared that Israel planned and financed these operations and supplied all the requirements of implementation. By such actions, the Rabin government sought to sabotage Lebanon's accord process, return the country to the furnace of the sectarian civil war, undermine its national awareness, and revive sectarian plans and infighting. Thus, it has been categorically proved that the present Israeli government has changed nothing in the hostile view toward Lebanon, and that like its predecessors, this government seeks to partition Lebanon and to see it again immersed in bloodshed and destruction.

The paper stresses that Israel is still the main threat to all Lebanese and that it still covets their land and possessions. The paper indicates that Israel's plots against the Lebanese are endless, and that Israel will continue its occupation of southern Lebanon to strike at any signs of relaxation and reconstruction in Lebanon and to inflame sectarian and religious infighting in it.

The paper says that despite the weakness of UN Security Council Resolution 904 condemning the Hebron massacre and demanding specific measures to protect the Palestinians, the Israeli Government seeks to circumvent this resolution and make it devoid of any content. This proves again that the Rabin government does not intend to comply with international resolutions, especially the ones demanding withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the Palestinian rights, the paper notes. The paper declares: Israel absolutely refuses to give up settlement building and settlements, and it does not intend to accept the land-for-peace formula. Israel's role in southern Sudan, including sending weapons to rebels, has also been exposed. This proves

that Israel wants neither welfare nor stability for the Arabs. The paper stresses that wherever there is tension in any Arab country, there must be Israeli fingers and weapons.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: What we have said clearly shows that Israel never considers peace with the Arabs and real coexistence with them. Rather, it raises slogans of peace to deceive and mislead Arab public opinion and conceal Zionism's aggressive and expansionist objectives.

Daily Views Israel's 'Subversive' Role in Lebanon

JN2603104794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon and the Israeli Traps," the newspaper TISHRIN today writes on Israel's continuous attempts to exacerbate the situation in Lebanon.

TISHRIN says: The Lebanese judiciary investigations have revealed that Israel was the party responsible for planning the Sayyidat al-Najat Church massacre with the objective of covering its continuous crimes and brutal massacres in the occupied Arab territories, particularly the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

TISHRIN touches on Israel's attempts to restore its subversive and conspiratorial role in Lebanon by moving the remnants of its agents to infiltrate into the Lebanese arena and to storm the march of security and accord.

TISHRIN says: The Lebanon of today is not that of yesterday, when Israel used to wreak havoc in it, and

when Israel used to believe that by moving its tools in Lebanon, it could guarantee its free presence in southern Lebanon, dictate its conditions, and evade the peace requirements and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 425, which calls for a full [Israeli] withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN says: Through its attempts to ignite the situation in Lebanon, Israel has proven anew that it does not at all like seeing Lebanon enjoying security and stability. When it plans to strike at the march of accord in Lebanon by perpetrating crimes and carrying out aggressions against Lebanese territory, Israel clearly shows that it is completely hostile to peace and stability in the region, and that it only seeks to achieve its hostile and expansionist objectives and to continue its occupation of southern Lebanon and the other Arab territories.

TISHRIN adds: This is clearly shown by the fact that the occupation troops are in a continuous state of alert in southern Lebanon, and by Israel's ceaseless threats to Lebanon to expand aggressions on its territory, perpetrate massacres against its citizens, and endanger its sovereignty.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Undoubtedly, the Lebanese government's determination to impose the supremacy of law on all sides was received with satisfaction and positive response by the sons of the Lebanese people, especially since attempts to involve Lebanon in crimes and bloodshed have been checked once and for all, and since it has become clear that Lebanon, which confronted and foiled previous Israeli challenges and plots resolutely and strongly, is now able to resume the march of security and peace and to strengthen its internal front. Lebanon will not go back on its plans to achieve accord, and the Lebanese people will not allow its enemies, the Israelis, its agents, or the remnants of militias, to disrupt its stability or to undermine its national and pan-Arab aspirations.

Iran

Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0104103094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Excerpt] In his Friday prayer sermons, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi referred to the Day of God, 12 Farvardin [1 April], the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic republic system, and described it as the day of sovereignty of justice and Islam. He stressed: The true gratefulness for such a great blessing can be shown through support for the Islamic government and its principles and inspirations.

He referred to the historic vote of the Muslim nation of Iran for the Islamic republic system and added: The participation of the people in the general process of the Islamic system and their determining its structure is a principle which has prevailed since the victory of the Islamic revolution.

The head of the judiciary branch explained the characteristics of the Islamic Republic system and said: Such form of government is still unknown to the world and for that reason the dimensions and philosophy of its structure should be further introduced to the people of the world.

The head of the judiciary branch also called for a principled solution to the hajj problem. He said that the problem should be solved in a mutual way. The Saudi Government should be made aware and the problem explained to its officials in order to find a fundamental solution to the problem of the hajj.

He referred to the possibility of a number of Iranian volunteers going to hajj from other countries, and said: If a person holds a passport and a valid visa, then there should be no problem for going to hajj from other countries, and people should not be limited for no reason.

Ayatollah Yazdi also called for a specific reply by the government of Armenia on the downing of an Iranian C-130 aircraft over Karabakh. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Russia Involved in Downing of C-130 Plane

LD3103131394 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA—The Persian daily ABRAR in a commentary Thursday raised the likelihood of Moscow's involvement in the downing of the Iranian passenger plane near Stepanakert in Armenian controlled Karabakh on March 17.

It said that previously when other passenger planes happened to fly over the area Moscow would immediately inform the commander of Armenian forces of the

scheduled flight over the airspace of Armenia to make sure that the plane would not be shot down, but that in the case of the Iranian plane none of the navigation systems in the region operated as responsibly as they should have. The commentary also noted that immediately after the news of the downing of the plane broke out on the media Moscow suggested that the Iranian passenger plane had been flying over the region for reconnaissance purposes.

"The Russians having been traditionally slow in their responses to current developments, their unwonted haste in publicizing that suggestion makes their purpose all too transparent," it added.

The C-130 bound for Tehran from Moscow with families of Iranian diplomats in Russia on board, exploded in mid air and crashed in Karabakh moments after it contacted Yerevan airport control tower at 19:10 hours GMT. There were no survivors among the 32 passengers and crew including 17 women on board. After due investigations by an expert sent to the site of the crash by Iran, the Foreign Ministry has confirmed that the plane was missiled down by Armenian troops.

The commentary in ABRAR said "whether the downing of the Iranian plane was the result merely of negligence on the part of the systems in Armenia or it was imposed on that country as a plot, Armenia would do itself good to evaluate the mishap independent of the insinuations of the outsiders and assume responsibility for it, and do something by way of appeasing her neighbor Iran."

"Or else," the paper warned, "the incident will remain for ever a thorny issue in the relations between Armenia and her neighbor Iran."

Aqazadeh Notes Saudi Decision on Oil Prices

LD2803135194 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here Monday that Saudi Arabia's decision to oppose any decrease in the OPEC's production ceiling has only served to keep down the price of oil.

Speaking at a press conference upon his return from an OPEC ministerial meeting in Geneva, Aqazadeh regretted that political issues always affected the decisions of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He did not rule out the possibility that Saudi Arabia's decision might be linked with Iran's position on the number of Iranian pilgrims for this year's Hajj pilgrimage.

Saudi Arabia has decided to cut the number of Iranian pilgrims from 115,000 to 60,000.

On the sideline of the OPEC meeting, he said, some Saudi Arabian delegates raised the issue concerning the

quota of Iranian pilgrims and criticized the Iranian press for their stance on the matter.

According to Aqazadeh if the OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers had agreed to cut their output ceiling, it would have pushed up the price of oil up to three to four dollars per barrel.

Velayati Meets Burkina Faso Officials, Departs

NC3103071594 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 31 Mar 94*

[Text] In the second phase of his visit to African countries, our foreign minister met the president and other officials of Burkina Faso yesterday. The Burkina Faso president described their talks as positive and called for increased political contacts and agricultural and development cooperation as well as for exhibitions of Iranian products in his country.

Velayati expressed Iran's readiness to train people from Burkina Faso in the diplomatic, insurance, and banking fields. Our foreign minister described his meeting with Burkina Faso officials as significant; it led to agreements on forming joint economic commissions, offering Iranian goods to Burkina Faso, and on cooperation in the field of commerce.

Velayati also met the prime minister of Burkina Faso yesterday. The two sides expressed hopes that a joint bilateral economic commission and exhibitions of Iranian goods in Burkina Faso would further expand bilateral relations.

Velayati and his delegation left Burkina Faso for Namibia last night.

Nation To Head Group of 77 Countries

LD3103162694 *Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 31 Mar 94*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has been elected to head the working group of the Group of 77 countries.

The group is responsible for preparing various topics of common interest to the Group of 77 for the agenda of the decisionmaking UNIDO sessions and in particular its draft resolutions.

Preparing the draft resolutions for the Group of 77 and the agenda of the sessions is the responsibility of the working group of the Group of 77 countries.

End to Afghan Clashes Urged, Mediation Offer Renewed

LD2903103294 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Mar 94*

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has expressed regret over the recent clashes in Afghanistan, particularly

in Kabul, which caused loss of life and property to the Muslim people of that country. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran calls on all the warring sides to end the military clashes as soon as possible and to resolve the disputes through talks in order to prevent further bloodshed.

The spokesman added: As ever, the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to continue to assist in the process of peace-seeking efforts.

Tehran Views Arab League Discussion of Boycott

LD2603201494 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 26 Mar 94*

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab League member states held a session in Cairo on March 26th.

The participants in the Cairo session are discussing the cancellation of the indirect economic embargo against the Zionist regime. The embargo includes that group of companies and institutions which have economic and commercial deals with the Israeli regime. The Arab states imposed the economic sanctions since the early 1950's in the wake of recurrence of the first war between Arabs and the Israelis. Based on the Zionist regime officials, within this period of time Israel has sustained over \$50 billion in loss.

With the start of the Arab-Israeli peace process and the Arab-Zionist mutual talks paving of grounds for lifting of economic sanctions against that regime by the United States have been further revealed. This took a more serious form with the conclusion of the Gaza-Jericho agreement by the Zionist regime and the PLO. Since last September—that is, the time when the agreement was signed—the U.S. pressures on Arabs for easing the economic sanctions against Israel have been stepped up. These pressures as well as spread of reports on some agreements reached between some Arab states and the Zionist regime over economic plans caused the Arab League general secretary, 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, to declare late last year that the Arab League will hold a session in March to discuss the lifting of the indirect economic embargo against Israel.

In the past six months reports regarding the possibility of cancellation of economic embargo of Israel by Arabs have entailed various reactions among the Arab countries. Despite the silence maintained by Arab countries, Syria, Sudan, and Libya have shown protesting reactions towards such a possibility. The Syrian Prime Minister Faruq al-Shar' upon arrival in Cairo on Friday said the issue of lifting of the Israeli sanctions by the Arabs will not be dealt with as long as the Israeli forces have not evacuated the occupied lands and a Palestinian country is not established.

Political observers assess these comments which in fact indicate serious posturing toward the Arab League session in Cairo today as a kind of taking of position by that group of Arab states which are not satisfied with the

Arab-Israeli peace process. However, in line of their current regional situation it is not easy to predict whether this might leave an impact on decision-making of the Cairo session or not.

Saudi Actions Concerning OPEC Examined

NC0104111294 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
28 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "OPEC Fails To Lower Crude Production"]

[Text] Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Saturday failed to agree on new production ceilings and decided to extend the current 24.5 million barrels a day level.

Prior to the meeting, some OPEC nations including Iran and Kuwait had indicated their willingness to cut production to boost prices. Several non-OPEC producers excluding Britain, Norway, and Mexico also favored lower crude export levels which would bring higher prices and prolong the life of underground crude reserves.

Britain and Norway claim that keeping the current level and even increasing it has been planned a long time ago based on "long-term investment programs."

Self interest is obviously the main consideration for agreeing to any changes in production volume by the individual members of OPEC. However, it does not necessarily follow that a formula cannot be found that will benefit all members as well as the non-OPEC crude exporters.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter of petroleum, saying it needs to keep its production at the current level to pay for its foreign debts, disrupted any semblance of consensus by disagreeing to any production cuts. On the surface the Saudi stance seems reasonable. But this is the same country that a few weeks ago bought \$6 billion worth of U.S.-made planes from manufacturers who were on the verge of bankruptcy. It is hard to understand the Kingdom's policy which costs its nation huge sums in order to save American businesses but at the same time endangers and actually damages the economies of its own neighbors by reducing their oil revenues.

Iran's Oil Minister, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, proposed a 1.4 million barrels a day collective reduction in OPEC's crude output amounting to an overall 6 percent drop in production volume. At the same time Oman, representing 8 non-OPEC producers, offered to cut non-OPEC production by 250,000 barrels a day. Aqazadeh quoted the OPEC Secretariat as saying that the above proposed cuts would have resulted in a \$4 a barrel increase in crude prices. This will more than offset Saudi Arabia's lower oil revenues if production ceilings are dropped.

Considering the fact that all OPEC nations, particularly Saudi Arabia which has the largest production volume,

will economically benefit from higher prices the Kingdom's opposition to lowering production volumes seems contrary to its own interests.

By keeping crude prices low the Saudi rulers are in effect giving higher priority to the interests of the United States, which wants cheap crude, than to their own economic well being and political independence, and in the process they are creating financial inconveniences for their neighbors.

Paper Notes Saudi Opportunity To Prove 'Good Will'

NC0104113194 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES
(International Weekly) in English 17 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Capitalizing on Politicization of Hajj"]

[Text] This spring provides an auspicious opportunity for the leadership of Saudi Arabia to prove its good will towards all Muslims including the people of the Islamic Republic by making independent policy decisions relating to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the handling of the Hajj pilgrimage.

Due to their economic and political potentials, Iran and Saudi Arabia are capable of bringing about stability and a spirit of cooperation in the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East as a whole.

The key role played by both countries in the world's oil markets, their proximity to the Persian Gulf's northern and southern shores, together with their common religious heritage makes them natural allies. A Tehran-Riyadh axis can be instrumental in creating a political and economic critical mass large enough to address the problems currently facing the Islamic world.

Despite their national and regional interests, the Saudis have subordinated their domestic and foreign policies to the United States' hegemonic objectives in the Middle East. By doing so, they have diluted their own political independence and have identified themselves too closely with Washington's interests which are at odds with the aspirations of the Islamic world.

The three salient Saudi policies which run contrary to the interests of the region and do not bestow much honor on the Saudi leaders are: producing more than their OPEC quota; facilitating an American presence in the Persian Gulf; and reducing the limit on the number of Iranian pilgrims to Mecca in the Hajj season.

Riyadh has so far failed to formulate a cohesive policy based on the recent Islamic and Arab political experiences, and has not been able to differentiate between its national and regional interests, and those of the Western powers.

The Islamic Republic recognizes Riyadh's right to make independent policy decisions, so long as those decisions are based on the principles of peaceful coexistence with

and mutual respect for neighboring countries. However, Tehran is not prepared to accept the political and economic cost of its neighbor's shortsighted policies which will ultimately affect the welfare of the Islamic Republic and other Muslim countries of the Middle East.

After 15 years of Saudi enmity towards the Islamic Republic with the resulting negative consequences for the Islamic and Arab worlds, a review of Riyadh's policies towards Iran based on mutual respect and interests is now in order.

The Saudi leadership's decision to lower the number of Iranian pilgrims was made, supposedly, because of construction projects to expand the holy Grand Mosque of Mecca which surrounds the holy Ka'ba. But according to informed sources, renovations were completed some time ago.

This Saudi decision to, unjustifiably, reduce the number of pilgrims from the Islamic Republic is politically motivated and reflects the wishes of certain factions in the House of Sa'ud whose interests are served by sowing dissension between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Under the present circumstances, the Saudi leadership needs to make a courageous political decision to remove the existing strained relations between the two countries.

Official Discusses Expansion of Ties With Turkey

*LD2903182694 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT
29 Mar 94*

[Text] Ankara, March 29, Irna—Issues of common interest were discussed here today between Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister For Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Morteza Bank And his Turkish counterpart Uzdum Sunberg.

The two sides agreed on expansion of bilateral ties to promote stability and security in the region and to strengthen the position of the Caucasus and Central Asia republics both regionally and at the international level.

Referring to the good ties between the two countries, the Turkish official said Iran's prestige among the regional countries can play an effective role to settle the Karabakh issue with Turkey's help.

Bank said Tehran and Ankara could use their influence and coordinate efforts to settle the regional issues.

The Iranian official arrived here last night on a 2-day visit.

Transfer of Space Technology to Developing Countries Urged

LD3103193794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran calls for international cooperation for transfer of space technology to the developing countries.

Islamic Republic of Iran's representative mentioned the point in the 33rd session of the Legal Subcommittee for Peaceful Use of Outer Space saying the space technology should be put at the disposal of larger number of countries and people in the world. The Iranian representative said outer space should be allocated to peaceful activities based on the UN ratifications. The Iranian representative has mentioned the space technology as a helpful means for promotion of communication for protection of the living environment and predictions of natural incidents, calling on the UN to make efforts to attain the objective through creating regional mechanisms.

The Legal Subcommittee of Peaceful use of outer space includes 53 members with the Islamic Republic of Iran being one of them.

Passports To Take on New 'Security Aspect' 1 Apr

*NC2903060494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT
29 Mar 94*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department has reported that ordinary, diplomatic, and service passports will change. So that passports are in line with the objectives and values of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, as of 1 April, the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, new passports will replace the current ones. The new passports will be different in size, shape, and in their security aspect from the existing documents and will be compiled by a computer in a way that will facilitate access to information and to references.

Further on Change

*LD2903210494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT
29 Mar*

[Text] All diplomatic and service passports will change as of 1 April, but ordinary passports will continue to be valid.

Manuchehr Mottaki, Iranian deputy foreign affairs minister for legal, consular and parliamentary affairs said the reason for the changing of passports was to insert concepts of the Islamic system and stop possible misuse.

Mr. Mottaki added: The new diplomatic and service passports will be introduced as of 1 April, and ordinary passports from the second half of the current [Iranian] year [beginning 21 September]. He added: The diplomatic and service passports of the government employees serving abroad are valid until the end of the current year [ending 20 March 1995] and the government employees who have received visas from other countries and are still in Iran will be given new passports.

On the characteristics of the new passports, Mr. Mottaki said: The new passports are smaller than the old ones.

They have been given special numbers, and certain chemical substances have been used to reduce the possibility of forging or misusing them to zero.

He stressed: In order to expand our consular cooperation and ties in a principled manner, we welcome the removal of visa restrictions with some countries.

TEHRAN TIMES Reviews World Events

NC0104105094 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
27 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "A Review of the First Week of the Year"]

[Text] Last week's celebrations of the Iranian new year coincided with some international events worth mentioning.

The world once again witnessed Israeli aggression against Palestinian freedom fighters and the innocent population of Southern Lebanon. Both Zionist actions were the result of the United Nations' foot dragging on the resolution condemning Israel for the al-Khalil massacre of the Palestinians last February.

Recent attacks on Lebanon and on the Palestinians once more prove that Israel, enjoying full support of the United States in the UN, will ignore any internationally accepted law it considers contrary to its own interests. This intransigent attitude towards UN resolutions should serve as a warning to those Arab states who currently entertain the idea of a real and genuine peace with the Zionist state.

Armenia, another regional trouble spot, was also in the news last week. A C-130 plane belonging to the Islamic Republic carrying Iranian diplomats and students coming home for the new year crashed in Armenian territory killing all 32 people on board. This tragedy deeply saddened our people especially considering IRI's recent mediating efforts in the Azeri-Armenian territorial dispute.

Iranian blood should not be spilled because of conflicts of its neighbors. Iranian-Armenian relations are based on centuries of coexistence and cultural exchanges between the two ancient peoples. It is incumbent upon the Armenian authorities to do whatever is necessary to regain the good will of the Iranian people and to continue the Iranian-initiated peace process with Azerbaijan if peace is really their ultimate objective.

Kashmir and the conduct of India's Border Security Forces (BSF) were also prominent in last week's news. A report by an Indian commission accused the BSF of having fired on Kashmiri Muslims killing at least 30 unarmed protesters without any provocation. The commission recommended the court-martial of several BSF members including two of its top officers.

India's swift and impartial actions regarding the renegade members of the BSF in Kashmir deserve international praise and we hope will serve as a model for other countries when faced with a similar situation.

The new year message of Iran's Revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, emphasizing social discipline and work ethics in the everyday lives of the Muslim people began the year 1373 with a national spirit of hope, and motivated the Iranians to begin the new year with a resolution to work towards achieving the country's objectives of self-sufficiency and independence.

Punishment Urged for Plane Crash

NC0104104594 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
29 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Who Was Responsible for the Crash of the C-130 Plane?"]

[Text] Iran's experts looking into the cause of the crash of the C-130 Hercules transport plane that killed 32 Iranians have not found the black box and are leaving Karabakh for Tbilisi and Baku where they hope to find clues from both airports' towers. The Iranian pilot had contacted both towers prior to the disaster.

This plane crash is still shrouded in mystery while Iranian officials are under increasing public pressure to identify those responsible for this atrocity which resulted in the martyrdom of 32 innocent Iranians returning home for the New Year. Iranians are outraged at this savage terrorist act and demand cooperation of all parties concerned in efforts to identify the culprits and to bring them to justice.

The Armenians of Karabakh and the Azeris accuse each other of responsibility in this heinous crime against Iranian citizens. However, the evidence so far points to the Armenians as the most likely perpetrators of this cowardly act, therefore it is incumbent upon the Armenian authorities to prove otherwise.

The C-130 tragedy along with the rampant and pointless killings by both sides make it necessary to find a final and comprehensive solution to this destructive armed conflict. Despite political pressures from the Armenians and the Azeris and their respective supporters on the international level, Iran's mediating efforts so far have been based purely on the Islamic Republic's desire for peace in the region and its absolute impartiality in this dispute.

Iran believes that the ongoing Armenian-Azeri land dispute has sapped both countries' economic and political energies which will sooner or later result in the two countries' dependence on big foreign powers.

International organizations' slow pace in resolving such disputes make them ineffective in solving this particular crisis. Only the bilateral political resolve of Armenians

and the Azeris together with the mediation of well intentioned regional countries could put an end to this senseless mass killing.

Both sides should also consider the fact that if such flagrant acts of terrorism continue, neighboring countries such as the Islamic Republic will have no choice but to react accordingly in order to protect their citizens.

Pakistan

Paper Previews Visit by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

BK2603114094 Islamabad *THE NATION* in English
26 Mar 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Talbot's Mission"]

[Text] US Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbott is expected to visit Pakistan and India towards the first week of April carrying, according to Press reports, the outline of a package deal to implement the American nuclear non-proliferation agenda for the region. The deal would first ask Pakistan and then India to cap their nuclear programmes. To sweeten the pill for Pakistan, the undelivered 38 F-16s Pakistan has already paid for as well as some P-3 Orion anti-submarine attack planes would be delivered as a one-time exception to the Pressler Amendment. Both the nuclear programmes of Pakistan and India would be opened up to international inspection and verification. A five-power conference comprising Pakistan, India, China, Russia and the US, with the possible inclusion of Britain, France, Germany and Japan, would be convened to obtain pledges from Pakistan and India that they will ban nuclear tests. Both countries would be asked not to develop and deploy ballistic missiles as potential delivery systems for nuclear warheads. For some time now, conflicting signals have been emanating from the Clinton administration which indicate its desire to find a way round the Pressler Amendment, not out of any love for Pakistan, but in order to have sufficient leverage to persuade us to forego our nuclear option. Congressional opposition led by Senator Pressler has so far made that difficult for the US government. Even the package under discussion has come under fire during hearings of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Whether the Clinton administration will be able to negotiate all these reefs before Mr Talbott's arrival in South Asia is highly doubtful, given the strength of opposition to its proposals from Congress. It seems premature therefore for us to be speculating whether Pakistan has agreed to any of these proposals, which could hardly be said to have jelled even within the American foreign policy establishment, in any case. Mr Talbott's package hardly contains anything new or startling. All these proposals have been mooted in the recent past, some, like the five-power conference, by Pakistan itself. The obstacles too, are well known and formidable. The most intractable is India's continuing hegemonic ambitions in the area which have led it to develop a nuclear weapon which it tested as far back as 1974, arm itself to the teeth despite possessing the fourth largest army

in the world which lends it overwhelming military superiority over all its neighbours, and its stubborn refusal to engage in meaningful discussions let alone accept any reasonable solution to the Kashmir issue. It has tried to deflect the US pressure for non-proliferation in the region by hiding behind the demand for global nuclear disarmament. It has tried to deflect the US pressure for non-proliferation in the region by hiding behind the demand for global nuclear disarmament. It has not even been prepared to take seriously the five-power conference proposal which seeks to meet its argument that it faces a nuclear threat from China. Given this reality, it might be more productive if Mr Talbott could first persuade India to cap its nuclear programme and discuss the core issue of Kashmir seriously with Pakistan before the 'demonstration effect' could assuage Pakistan's very real concerns. If, however, flying in the face of these facts, the US is training its guns on Pakistan because it thinks it can pressurise us more easily than India since it has greater leverage over us, it is seriously underestimating the will of our people to forego even badly needed aircraft in order to safeguard our national interests. In the furtherance of these interests, before Mr Talbott arrives, it would be in the fitness of things if the government were to take the nation into confidence and sit down with the Opposition to chalk out a joint position to resist any pressures the US may be planning to exert.

India Accused of '822 Cease-Fire Violations'

BK2803003594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Indian troops have committed 822 cease-fire violations along the Line of Control (LOC) in Azad Kashmir during 1993. This was stated at a briefing for a group of journalists, including members of foreign news media, held in Azad Kashmir. During these violations, Indians fired 0.4 million rounds of small arms and 400 grenades, killing 36 civilians and wounding 110, including women and children. The mediamen were told that the Indians have started sabotage activities in Azad Kashmir villages close to the Line of Control with a view to forcing the local population to abandon those areas. On their side of the LOC, the Indians had forcibly evacuated all civilians creating miles deep depopulated belts. The newsmen were informed that Indian were also seen building concrete bunkers and strengthening defenses. Three layers of defense have been set up so as to deny any entry into or exit from occupied Kashmir. People, who lost limbs in Indian firing, spoke of the trauma to which they were frequently subjected due to the enemy's unprovoked firing. The journalists also met wounded civilians under treatment at Army's main (resting) station at Kotli. These persons sustained injured as a result of Indian firing from across the Line of Control. They were evacuated and provided medical care at Army's field hospitals on humanitarian grounds.

Editorial Views U.S. Nonproliferation Proposals

BK3103111394 Peshawar *THE FRONTIER POST* in English 31 Mar 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Pursuing nuclear nonproliferation"]

[Text] The United States has now, reportedly, sought to expand the framework of the proposed five-nation conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. The proposal envisages India, Pakistan, China, Russia, and the United States together working out a formula for a nuclear-free South Asia. India, however, has been reluctant to participate in any such conference on the grounds that it is not prepared to limit consideration of nonproliferation strategies aimed only at South Asia. It has recently reiterated this position during the course of a visit by the US assistant secretary of state for South Asia. India's contention is that in the presence of a nuclear-armed China it is not possible for it to consider capping its nuclear programme.

Now the US proposal to expand the framework to include Britain, France, Japan and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could be seen as a way of bringing more pressure to bear upon the two sides to work out some kind of an acceptable arrangement. The current US emphasis does not appear to be on absolute nuclear disarmament. The effort is now directed at getting the two sides, at least in the initial stage, to freeze their existing arsenals at current levels. The objective of a roll-back would be pursued at a later stage. As a part of this graduated approach, also, Pakistan has repeatedly signalled its willingness to undertake the necessary non-proliferation measures in tandem with a similar policy on the part of India. The latter has, however, continued to invoke the argument of a nuclear China as well as the need to discuss any such measures not by reference just to South Asia but in a much broader, global, context. In a sense, this proposal by including among the participants all the permanent members of the Security Council, as well as Japan and the IAEA does meet India's demands for a broader context for discussing the issue of nonproliferation. But how much help this will be in getting India to make any meaningful change in its rigid position on the issue remains to be seen. In any such context Pakistan could also find itself being subjected to increasing pressure by powerful global and regional actors. It is important, therefore, for Pakistan's policy-makers to identify its policy options carefully in this regard, beyond the understandable linkage with India's nuclear programme that it has continued to emphasise. There appears to be a heightened US interest in Pakistan's nuclear programme as demonstrated by its recent offer to allow the sale of 38 F-16s that Pakistan has already paid for in exchange for a verifiable capping of its nuclear programme. The upcoming visit by the US deputy secretary of state is also in the same context. While there appears to be general consensus in Pakistan on rejecting this offer it is interesting that it has been opposed also by Senator Pressler as well as Indian policy-makers, perhaps as a result of the apprehension that it will leave Pakistan with the ability to assemble a limited number of nuclear devices in short order while augmenting the ability of its air force, not least in the department of nuclear weapons delivery, in considerable measure. In any case Pakistan, while remaining mindful of its own security interest and the options available,

should welcome the proposals to discuss the various aspects of the nonproliferation issue in a broader framework. Among other things, it should help in subjecting India's case for a voiding any meaningful response to Pakistan's various initiatives for a nuclear-free South Asia to a thorough review by the international community.

Editorial Rejects Exchanging Nuclear Program for F-16's

*BK2803143994 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
25 Mar 94 p 10*

[Editorial: "F-16's in Lieu of Nuclear Program—Unacceptable Deal"]

[Text] Lynn Davis, the U.S. under secretary of state, has said the United States is ready to supply F-16 aircraft to Pakistan on the condition that Islamabad halts its nuclear program. The U.S. under secretary of state added that the administration will ask Congress to lift the restrictions on military aid so it can hand over the F-16 aircraft to Pakistan for which payment has already been made, but in return Islamabad will have to give assurances that it will not make any further advances in its nuclear program.

Pakistan has repeatedly assured the international community that its nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes, that it does not intend to manufacture a nuclear bomb, and that it does not harbor any aggressive designs against any country, even though India has already exploded a nuclear device and committed two acts of aggression against Pakistan. The United States has maintained a policy of overlooking the nuclear programs of India, South Africa, and Israel, but its strategy vis-a-vis Islamic countries—especially Pakistan—has been to prevent them from acquiring modern technology at all costs. When the former Soviet Union was alive as another superpower, the U.S. attitude was somewhat flexible; but with the disintegration of the USSR, the United States—swollen with pride at being the sole superpower—has been continuously pressuring Pakistan. This is why it has not only approved discriminatory legislation in the form of the Pressler Amendment, but has also refused to deliver aircraft for which we have already made payment.

If Pakistan were situated in a peaceful region without such a crafty and cunning neighbor as India, it would not have needed to start a nuclear program or spend a large chunk of its resources on defense. Pakistan—which has faced two aggressions and lost half of its territory—cannot afford to demonstrate any weakness or enter any deal regarding its nuclear program. The only reason India has not attacked Pakistan so far, despite its intentions, is the nuclear deterrent. It is also a fact that the United States has shown it is not Pakistan's trusted friend. After the way it turned away from Pakistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops and tried to improve relations with India, it is impossible for Islamabad to

accept Washington's offer, abandon its nuclear program, and in exchange rely on U.S. weapons or try to live with U.S. promises that proved unreliable during the 1965 and 1971 wars.

Pakistan has forwarded several proposals to eliminate regional tension and declare South Asia a nuclear-free zone. These proposals have included a nonaggression treaty and a five-nation conference that has been supported by the United States. India, however, has never given a positive or favorable response to these proposals, thereby proving its aggressive designs. The United States has been pressuring Pakistan to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT]. Pakistan is ready to sign the NPT on the condition that India does the same. Even this is not in Pakistan's interests, because it does not have the strength to face India with conventional weapons. Moreover, India is not even ready to sign the NPT. The United States has also been pressuring Pakistan to open Kahuta and other nuclear research centers for inspection. This is tantamount to eliminating Pakistan's nuclear program, because the inspections would be the same as those carried out against the Iraqi nuclear

installations, as a result of which the United States silenced Iraq. If Washington thinks that any Pakistani Government could remain in power after committing such a blunder, it is mistaken. The U.S. assistant secretary of state is due to arrive in Pakistan in a few days; the Pakistani Government must not demonstrate any weakness in this regard.

If Washington—ignoring the ethics of trade—intends to demand a quid pro quo for the delivery of those F-16 aircraft that were paid for in cash, it is outrageous. The government must stand firm rather than bowing to this blackmail and meet the situation by keeping the nation informed. There is no need to indulge in confrontation with the United States. In the context of its national interests and regional situation, however, Washington can be convinced that its discriminatory attitude is harming its own interests and its image is being tarnished in the eyes of the Islamic world. In this context, the government should apprise the opposition of all the details and tell the United States that we want friendship, not submission.